

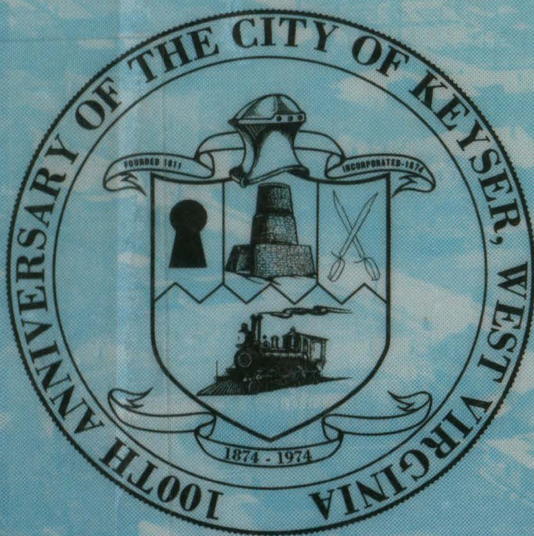
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History of Keyser, West Virginia 1737-1913

By William W. Wolfe



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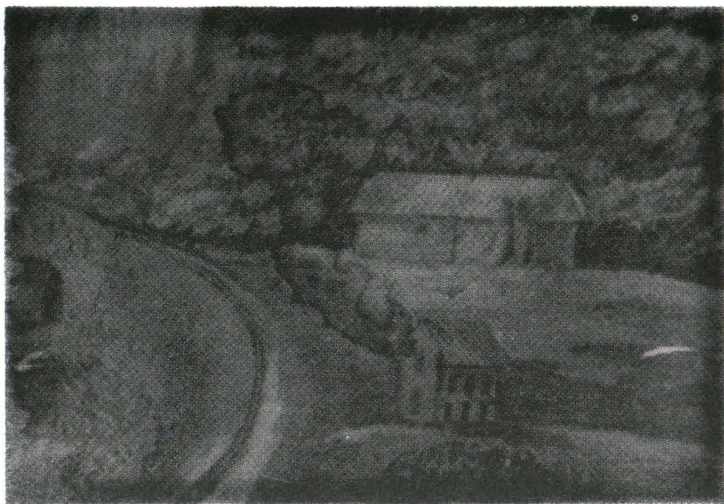
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The First Postmaster At Keyser, West Virginia
And His Wife



Colonel and Mrs. Isaac McCarty

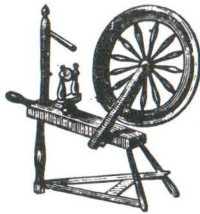
He was appointed postmaster at Pattytown Oct. 30, 1811. In 1835 he founded the town of Oakland, Md., and became its first postmaster. He died in Fairfield, Iowa, in 1867. Both of his grandfathers were killed by Indians on Patterson Creek in 1761.



The original McCarty General Store and Paddytown,
Virginia Post Office built before 1811, at the mouth
of Limestone Run.

History of Keyser, West Virginia 1737-1913

The story of Keyser, West Virginia, from the early years of the 18th century. Taken from facts of historical material available from local libraries, citizens and city and county court records.



By
William W. Wolfe

Published 1974

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FIRST EDITION

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DEDICATION

To the people of Keyser, West Virginia, past and present, all of whom have helped to make this city what it is — a uniquely attractive and congenial place in which to live,

(I have never heard anyone say, "I would hate to live in Keyser").

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The active co-operation of the following is gratefully acknowledged:

The Clerk of the County Court, Mrs. Willie Valentine and her assistants.

The Clerk of the Circuit Court, Mr. James A. Dixon, and his assistants.

Miss Mary Shipper, formerly librarian at Potomac State College.

Mr. Phillip Jordan, Post Master at Keyser, W.Va.

The Mayor of Keyser, Mr. Irving Athey and his predecessor, Mr. L. Raymond Wolford.

Mr. Harry P. Emmart, the Clerk of the City of Keyser.

Mrs. Marietta Millar Welch, Keyser, W.Va.

Captain Richard V. Hoffman, Los Angeles, California, Mrs. Woodrow P. Beavers, Keyser, W.Va., and many others.

Westvaco, Luke, Maryland.

INTRODUCTION

This history of Keyser, West Virginia, has been written originally at the request of Mrs. Mary Handlan, librarian of the Keyser-Mineral County Library, to whom as well as to her assistants, I am much indebted for permitting me access to the local historical and other material in that institution.

This is a history of Keyser, not a history of Mineral County, and approaches the subject from a strictly objective view point. The emphasis is on facts; however, no claim is made that it is without mistakes.

To give all the details in a local history can be very boring and also it is often best not to tell all. I have tried to keep this within these limits.

I hope this book may serve to further interest in our local historical heritage. It is now being presented to the public in connection with Keyser's Centennial of Incorporation.

Wm. W. Wolfe

Keyser, W.Va.

February 2, 1974

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CHAPTER 1

Before the White Man

In the early years of the eighteenth century Keyser was still Indian hunting ground, with the nearest permanently inhabited native villages at Oldtown below Cumberland, Maryland, and at Oldfield, near Moorefield, West Virginia. There were few if any permanent Indian residents at what is now Keyser, as the severe winters of the Allegheny Front mountains caused the area to be used only in summer and autumn, as a hunting ground.

The Shawnees had villages along the South Branch of the Potomac River both above and below the present town of Romney.

The Delawares were found along the Cacapon River.

The Senecas had villages along the South Branch, one being opposite "Hanging Rock" now known as "The Rocks" four miles north of Romney, on the river. This tribe also extended to the sources of the South Branch and its tributaries, having a village at the mouth of what is now called Seneca Creek at Seneca Rocks in Pendleton County.

Indian implements such as pipes, hatchets, and ceremonial stones found in the Upper Potomac Valley are similar in material and workmanship to those found in the Ohio Valley. It is probable that the tribes from that valley passed over the Alleghenies and had contact with or were part of the tribes of the Potomac Indians.

When excavating the basement of the house at 308 North Main Street in Keyser, an Indian grave, presumably of an adult man, was uncovered, containing necklaces, stone ax-heads, arrows and other artifacts.

It is believed that Indians came to Keyser in summer and raised corn on "Hominy Island" (Long's Island).

CHAPTER 2

The First White Men

King Charles II of England, while in exile, contracted heavy gambling debts, some of which he paid off by giving a land grant in the "northern neck" of Virginia. An ancestor of Lord Fairfax, Lord Culpepper, bought up this grant from the four "Noble Lords" to whom it had been granted. When Thomas, Lord Fairfax, inherited this large tract, he came to Virginia to develop it. This land extended to the "headwaters" of the Potomac River.

The first white men of whom we have any record, to pass through Keyser, were the surveyors sent by Lord Fairfax in 1736 to determine the source of the Potomac. They camped during the winter of 1736-37 at what is now Bloomington, Maryland. The head of the group was William Mayo. His assistant, George Savage, was a blind mathematician and astronomer from London. During the winter's stay at Bloomington their food supply was nearly exhausted. George Savage is said to have gone outside their hut one morning and accidentally caught a wild turkey which was stuck in a deep snow bank. Some say the river at that place was called the Savage River for this man.

Legend also has it that on the return journey down the river in 1737, they found a stream of water they had overlooked when ascending the river. They indicated it on their maps as "New Creek." At least in Lord Fairfax's grants of 1752, it is stated the land was at the mouth of New Creek, so this name was applied to this stream before 1750.

CHAPTER 3

The First White Settler at Keyser

After the Mayo Expedition had determined the extent of Lord Fairfax's domain, he began issuing land grants and lined off Patterson Creek Manor.

The first land grant at what is now Keyser was issued by, — to give him his full title, "Thomas Lord Fairfax, Baron Cameron, in that part of Great Britain called Scotland." This grant was issued to Christopher Beelor, by full patent bearing the date of March 20th, 1752, and is registered in the Proprietor's Book II, folio 146. This book is now at Richmond, Virginia.

The grant contained 387½ acres. Its boundaries were — from the mouth of New Creek to what is now Cross Street, which was the mouth of a small "run" at that time; then west on what is now Lincoln Street, over Fort Hill to the E Street run; down the E Street run to the Potomac River, taking in most of Hominy Island (Long Island); thence down the river to the mouth of New Creek.

The land to the south of Lincoln Street, Fairfax had already granted to John Lindsey and took in the present Potomac Heights and the Airport Addition to Keyser.

Christopher Beelor built a cabin on the river bank at Welch Street, now the site of James Smith's home. He lived here for several years, until marauding bands of Indians from Ohio forced him to flee to Fairfax County, during the French and Indian War. By 1774 he was deceased; his will dated March 30, 1773, is recorded at the Fairfax County Courthouse. In it he devises his estate including his land at New Creek to his wife, Mary Beelor. Apparently he had no other heir.

His widow, Mary Beelor, later married George Kyger, by whom she had the following children: —

Catherine Kyger, married Moses Royse

Mary Kyger, married Mr. Dunkle

Elizabeth Kyger

George Kyger, married Ruth . . .

Daniel Benjamin Kyger

John Kyger, --

all of whom lived here at Keyser

By 1807, her husband, George Kyger, was deceased. On Sept. 12, 1807, she and her children sold the farm here to James Mosley of Baltimore, Maryland, for the sum of 2,000 pounds current Virginia money.

James Mosley lived on his farm until his death about 1850. His family and widow occupied it until the Civil War.

CHAPTER 4

The McCartys

James Mosley married Mary McCarty, a sister of Patrick McCarty for whom Paddytown was named. All of the McCartys and Mosleys here were descended from two men who were captured and killed on Patterson Creek by Indians.

The McCartys came to what is now Mineral County as early as 1755. Patrick McCarty was born in county Tyrone, Ireland, about 1730. He, with his wife and one child, came to the Patterson Creek Manor in 1755, with a close friend, Wendell Millar, a Scot. McCarty and Millar built a long log cabin divided in the middle for double occupancy on Lot. No. 8 of the Manor. In one end McCarty and his family lived; in the other end Wendell Millar and his family.

The two men, McCarty and Millar, were stacking flax in a field (now a part of the Whipp farm) in the late summer of 1761 when a roving war party of Indians under the leadership of "Killbuck" attacked them. Wendell Millar was killed instantly. McCarty tried to escape to a block house called Fort Cocke on the hill across the creek from the farm. While he was climbing a fence, the Indians overtook and captured him. He was taken by them to Ohio where he was later burned at the stake.

Patrick McCarty was survived by his wife, one son, Edward McCarty, born 1756, died 1828, and four daughters. This Edward was the actual founder of Paddytown, which was named for his son, Patrick.

Wendell Millar was survived by his wife, and several children, one of whom was a daughter, Eilizabeth Millar, born 1757, died 1819 (at the Old Stone House on Armstrong Street).

Edward McCarty, only son of the martyred Patrick McCarty, married Elizabeth Millar, daughter of the slain Wendell Millar. They had fourteen children and lived at what is now the eastern party of Keyser.

Among their fourteen children were:

Patrick McCarty, died 1828, married Ruth Cresap

Issac McCarty, born 1790, died 1867 at Fairfield, Iowa.

(first Post Master at Keyser 1811) who married Anne Devecmon.

Edward McCarty, Jr., born 1784, died 1849, married twice —
first to Sarah Cresap in 1812.

secondly to Ruth Cresap in 1827.

Elizabeth McCarty, who married Col. William Armstrong of Romney and Keyser.

Mary McCarty, who married James Mosley, the purchaser of the Beelor-Kyger farm.

This Edward McCarty, son of the Indian martyr, owned the land on the eastern bank of New Creek, including what is now Armstrong Street, Extended, Keys Street, Millmeadow, Wildcat Hollow, the Keyser Industrial Park, the site of the Keyser Sanitation Plant, the site of the Mineral County Poor Farm, and most of Black Oak Bottom. He and his sons built the large stone house on Armstrong

Street Extended about 1815. Hereafter in this narrative this house will be referred to as "the Old Stone House" or the "Stone House."

The McCarty's business enterprise here was diversified. They had a general store where they sold provisions such as salt, corn, wheat, tea and whiskey, knives, forks, tin cups and plates; they had the post office, did threshing of wheat, cut cord wood and put on roofs. They had a forge and iron foundry where the Keyser Sanitation Disposal Plant now is; a salt well where the Industrial Park is; a flour mill in Mill Meadow, a saw mill and a lime kiln.

At their forge they made "Franklin stoves," horse shoes, hammers, hoes, skillets, ovens, log chains, axes, picks, shovels, etc.

Their largest individual account was that of James Daily, Sr., of Romney which amounted to \$7715.48 in 1815. Other customers were Benjamin Pennybacker, Hugh Perrill, John McCord, Daniel Taylor, William Vandiver, James Little, William Tasker, Timothy Corn, and John McDowell, whose account in 1815 was \$2002.02.

One year they hired John Shoemaker to make shoes for their slaves. One of their customers paid \$300.00 on his bill by giving them a negro woman slave. They paid Timothy Corn \$100.00 for some hay.

They sold an iron skillet for 67c, a skillet with a lid for \$1.12½, an ax was \$2.25. Beans were one dollar a bushel, "stone coal" at 7c per pound, tea cups were \$3.00 the dozen, a good bay mare for \$95.50.

Their iron wares were shipped to Georgetown, D.C. by flat boat when the river was sufficiently high. There is a rock in the river near Twenty-first Bridge called "The Boating Rock." When the water in the river covered that rock flat boats could navigate down stream to Georgetown.

During the presidential campaign of 1824, a parade for Henry Clay for president was held in Romney, in which was a flag and bunting decorated, horse-drawn float filled with products from the McCarty's Paddytown Iron Furnace.

The first post office at Keyser was established October 30, 1811, and named Paddytown, Virginia, after Patrick, son of Edward McCarty. The first post master was Isaac McCarty, also a son of Edward McCarty. Isaac was twenty-one years old when appointed post master, and served until October 15, 1814, at which time his sister Elizabeth McCarty's husband, William Armstrong became post master. William Armstrong served until April 20, 1818, when he was succeeded by his brother David Armstrong. David Armstrong was succeeded on July 20, 1820, by Isaac McCarty's brother, Patrick McCarty (the one for whom Paddytown was named). It will be apparent from this that the post office here was a McCarty family institution.

Isaac McCarty, after the McCarty business at Paddytown failed, went in 1826 or 27 to the Youghiogeny Glades and founded what is now the town of Oakland, Maryland. There he organized the first Sunday school, had a general store, and a farm, organized a Methodist Church, built the first church building and became the

first post master at what is now Oakland.

About 1853 he failed in business and moved to Fairfield, Iowa, where he died in 1867.

During the depression of 1824 the McCartys here went bankrupt, being in debt to the Bank of the United States. The father of the family, Edward, son of Patrick, the Indian martyre, died in 1824 or 1825. Patrick, his son, died in 1829. There was a forced sale. All the McCartys had left here was the "Old Stone House", a few acres of ground including Mill Meadow, and forty negro slaves. Most of the McCartys left this community.

Soon after this the remaining McCarty farm land, the "Stone House" and much additional farm land was purchased by James Singleton, who owned it until his death in 1842 (his name was John).

In the "Itinerary of Virginia" published in 1835 appears the following reference to Paddytown, Va.:

"Paddytown, Va. post office vacant 1835. Is a small, romantic village, 214 miles from Richmond and 135 miles Northwest from Washington. Has 6 dwelling houses, 1 mercantile store, 1 manufacturing flour mill, and in immediate vicinity 1 forge and iron furnace. Romantic scenery, especially Slim Bottom Hill (Queen's Point). Lands in immediate vicinity belong to James Singleton."

Due to many causes there was a decline in the economic importance of this little village. The Paddytown Post Office was discontinued January 6, 1844. George Washington Mosley, whose mother was the granddaughter of Patrick McCarty, the Indian martyr, was its last post master.

The name Paddytown was perpetuated in the name of the Paddytown Company of the Battalion of the 77th Regiment and 3rd Division of the Virginia Militia, which held drills and muster days here. A favorite place for these was a large grove of trees, in which was a spring, where the St. Francis Parochial School now is. The actual drilling was in a Mosley field where the B&O RR machine shops were later situated. These muster days were holiday outings much like picnics, whole families attending. The local name of this militia company was the "Buck Tails," the "Paddytown Buck Tails."

One of the Muster Rolls of the Buck Tails has survived and is as follows:

"Muster Roll of the Paddytown Company for 1843. Date of Commission 25th August, 1830.

The Paddytown Company Battalion, 77th Regiment and 3rd Division Virginia Militia, April 1843.

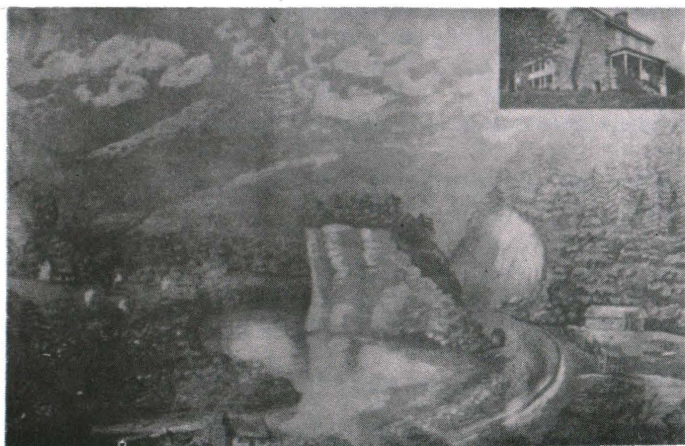
William Boley
Peter Fleek
Richard Baker
John Spencer
Thomas I. Hooper
Jacob Fleek, Jr.

James Culp
Solomon Elifritz
Maredeth Adams
Francis Martin
Nicholas Ravenscraft
Thomas Daniels

Simon Umstott
 Thomas Dobbins
 John S. Rogers
 Sephns Culp
 Moses Greenwade
 Vans Dobbins
 William James
 Michael Hull
 David Miller
 William Urice
 Henry Fleek
 Joseph Martin
 William Dawson
 Noah James
 John Waxler
 Harmon Ravenscraft
 Joseph C. Perkins
 Arthur Fleek
 Sollomon Urice
 William H. Nesbit
 John Urice
 James Pwell
 John Baley
 Samuel Arnold
 Edward Fleek
 John Fridley

Johnson Dobbins
 James Ravenscraft
 Sheldon Long
 Edward Gilpin
 Amos Culp
 Othey Spencer
 John Ravenscraft
 John Haggerty
 Edward Ravenscraft
 Samuel Byser
 James Davis
 Peter Umstott
 Wileby Dean
 James Rogers
 Thomas Hull
 John T. Singleton
 Wm. H. Rafter
 John T. Hart
 Lawrence Burns
 John Wineour
 Silas Lees
 James H. Dawson
 Jacob Miller
 John T. Ward
 Jacob Hart

After 1845 the village of Paddytown began to decline. The coming of the B&O RR brought new life and growth to the village. The railroad passed through both the Singleton (earlier the McCarty) farm and the Mosley farm. The city of Keyser would develop chiefly in the western bank of New Creek; Paddytown would become the eastern and smaller part of Keyser east of New Creek.



View of Bull Neck, by Mrs. Cornelia Peake McDonald
 Sketched 1853

CHAPTER 5

The Singletons and the Angus McDonalds

The last of the McCarty holdings at Paddytown including the "Stone House," forge, store, mill, etc., were purchased in 1829 by John Magruder Singleton, born September 1, 1775, died February 22, 1842. Mr. Singleton was born in Hardy County, the son of John Singleton and his wife Susanna Magruder, born March 20, 1743. Susanna's first marriage was to Carleton Tawnyhill of Winchester, Va. John Singleton was her second husband.

John and Susanna had one son, John Magruder Singleton, the purchaser of the McCarty farm here. John Magruder Singleton married on January 22, 1807, Mary Thompson, born April 13, 1788, died at Downey, Iowa in 1869.

Their children were:

Susan Singleton, born June 22, 1810, who married Joseph McCarty, born May 22, 1810, died Nov. 19, 1888.

John T. Singleton, born April 20, 1812, married on September 6, 1831, Mary Cresap.

Aaron Singleton, born January 25, 1818, married November 1, 1836, Mary Myers of Romney.

Mary Ann Singleton, born May 13, 1822, married February 1840, Romullus Thistle.

James R. Singleton, born June 22, 1828, died March 16, 1899, married Harriet Hayward, born June 6, 1817.

Barbara Singleton, born 1813, married on March 10, 1832 to John G. Lynn of Cumberland.

When John Magruder Singleton died in 1842, he left a will containing bequests amounting to several thousands of dollars and appointed Col. Angus McDonald, attorney, of Romney, his administrator. Col. McDonald refused to serve. He evidently had other plans. By this time it was known that the B&O RR would come through this farm inducing his aunt, Mrs. Elizabeth Tidball of Winchester, to buy the Singleton farm at public auction; he later bought the farm from her. The Singletons realized very little money from the sale of their farm. The bequests of John Magruder Singleton's will could not be paid for lack of funds. The Singletons moved to Iowa and Missouri. The B&O RR came through the farm in 1852, increasing its value. Col. McDonald profited much by buying it. Col. McDonald was a cousin of Dr. Hunter Maguire, Surgeon General of the Confederate Army and was from Winchester, Va., and a West Point graduate.

Col. McDonald moved to Paddytown, occupying the "Stone House" and farm in 1853. He continued to reside there until 1857, when he moved back to Romney.

After the final settlement of the James M. Singleton estate all of the children with their mother, Mrs. Mary Thompson Singleton, moved to Iowa, except one son, Aaron T. Singleton, who remained here and was constable of this district. He and his wife helped organize the first church in this village, the First Methodist Church,

in 1850. They and the Mosleys helped built the first church building in Keyser, the Methodist Church on Welch Street, where Shaffer's Electric Co. now is. This building was burned by soldiers during the Civil War. In the late 1850s Aaron Singleton and his wife moved to Iowa.

Col. Angus William McDonald's aunt, Mrs. Eleanor McDonald Tidball, lived in the "Old Stone HOUSE" AT Paddytown from 1847 to 1852, at which time he came here and lived in it.

Col. McDonald was born in Winchester, Virginia, of Scottish Jacobin ancestry. His parents were — Angus McDonald & 1769-1814) and his wife, Mary Maguire (1776-1808). He graduated from West Point Military Academy, was a colonel in the army for a few years, and became a lawyer, residing at Romney. He married a Romney girl, Leacy Ann Naylor (1803-1843), by whom he had eight children. After her death he went to Hannibal, Missouri, living there for a few years and did military service against the Indians.

While in Hannibal, he married Cornelia Peake, daughter of Dr. Humphrey Peake, of Alexandria, Virginia and later of Hannibal, Missouri. Dr. Peake, during his stay in Hannibal, was the family doctor to Mark Twain's parents, the Clements family. He was a gentleman of the "old school," imposing, formal, impressive, and impoverished. He wore knee breeches, buckled shoes and a ruffled shirt. He was no more a success financially than Mark Twain's father. Mark Twain devotes several pages of his biography to Dr. Humphrey Peake. He later visited at the "Old Stone House."

Col. McDonald and his second wife returned from Hannibal to Romney and later came to the "Stone House." He had nine children by his second wife, who, with the eight he had by the first wife, made a total of seventeen children.

The colonel moved to Paddytown in 1853 and lived here until 1857. Two of his children were born here —

Ellen McDonald, born 1854 and

Roy (Rob) McDonald, born 1856.

With the coming of the railroad, a post office was re-established here on January 22, 1852, named Paddy Town (two words), Virginia; the post master was a son of Col. Angus W. McDonald by his first wife, Edward Hitchcock McDonald. Col. McDonald's wife, Mrs. Cornelia Peak McDonald, who had been educated in a young ladies seminary in Alexandria, Va., and who was proficient in French, well read in English literature, and could paint and sketch, did not like the name Paddy Town. To her it was unesthetic and wholly unacceptable. She used her husband's influence to have the name of the office changed to Wind Lea, Virginia, which the Post Office Department did on January 22, 1855.

Mrs. Cornelia McDonald had considerable skill as a writer. After the Civil War, in 1875, she published a book, "A Diary, With Reminiscences of the War and Refugee Life in the Shenandoah Valley 1860-1865." One of the illustrations in this book is her sketch of the "Old Stone House," another is her sketch of Paddy Town, the only picture of this village in pre-Civil War Times.

Mrs. McDonald missed the social life of Alexandria. There is no record of her having any social contact with the other residents here. In all her writings she never mentions the other people here such as — Col. Edward Armstrong, the Mosleys, Mrs. Sarah McCarty, Col. James Dayton, the Reitzels, the Grimes, James I. Barrick, Mrs. Cornelius Long, the Smoots and others who were substantial and prosperous people of the community. Wind Lea was not exactly her "cup of tea," although she had many slaves to wait on her.

There was an elaborate wedding at the "Old Stone House" on December 20, 1855, when Anne Sanford McDonald, born October 30, 1830, died February 10, 1912, a daughter of Col. McDonald by his first wife, married James W. Green; he died 1884. McDonalds, Naylor, Peaks, and Maguires came from near and far for this wedding.

Mrs. Cornelia Peake McDonald's sister, Mrs. Ellen Peake DeCamp visited at Wind Lea in the Summer of 1854, accompanied by her daughter, Sally DeCamp, born 1852. Mrs. McDonald tells the story as follows:

"One night while here, Mrs. DeCamp awoke and ran screaming out of the house and wringing her hands. When the family reached her, she cried out, "James (her husband) is dead. I saw him in my dreams."

Shortly thereafter she received news of her husband's sudden death at Governor's Island, New York. He was buried in Woodland Cemetery, on officer's row."

Mrs. McDonald supplies the background for better understanding of this incident thus:

"In 1849 Mrs. Ellen DeCamp's husband, James DeCamp, joined a party of gold seekers, traveling by wagon train to California. Among his companions were Edward Charles McDonald, (born July 26, 1803 - died January 15, 1862), a brother of Col. Angus William McDonald, Richard Holliday, nephew of Col. Angus William McDonald, and Robert Baldwin Sherrard, a McDonald relative of Winchester, Va."

"Their families were left at home. Ellen DeCamp grew restless at the prolonged absence and lack of news from her husband. In spite of the objections of those at home and without definite knowledge of his whereabouts, she set out to join him. She took her son, Jack, and a daughter, Cornelia, and a young negro nurse with her. They traveled by water to the Isthmus of Panama, the family being carried across it on backs of coolies. Jack died and was buried at sea. Her life in California was one of hardship; dangerous, and privation which she bore with great courage and fortitude."

"Another daughter was born in San Francisco. Her husband's health was delicate and he required much of her care and attention. She returned home by sea, escorted by Major-Paymaster, later Brigadier General, Benjamin Alvord, U.S.A., , a friend of her father-in-law, Major-Surgeon E.G.I. DeCamp, U.S.A. They landed safely at Governor's Island, New York. She came at once by train to

Wind Lea. Her husband soon afterward returned from the west coast to New York, where he died soon after arrival"

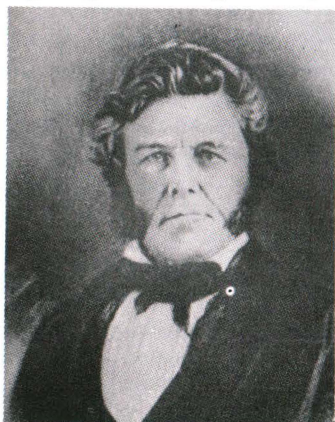
In 1857 the Angus McDonalds moved to Romney, then later to Winchester, Virginia. Winchester they lived in a brick mansion called "Hawthorne," on what is now Route 50 west.

Col. McDonald joined the Confederate Army in 1861 and for a while was commander of the 77th Va. Regiment. Before long he was captured by the Union forces and underwent a long imprisonment, from which he was released in the autumn of 1864 in a much debilitated condition. He died in Richmond, Virginia, December 1, 1864. His funeral was held at 4:00 p.m., December 3, 1864, in St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church, Richmond. President Jefferson Davis attended it.

Col. McDonald sold the "Stone House" in 1857 to Acquilla Brown McCarty, grandson of Edward McCarty, Jr., who with his son, Patrick, had built it in 1815. Acquilla, who was known as "Quill" McCarty, was quite a character, a hard working, hard swearing, hard drinking man. The custom of that day, before the Civil War, was to save all the day's dish water in a large crock, suds with all the grease (they used "home made" lye soap to wash the dishes) and at the end of the day thicken the solution with cornmeal and make large cornpones out of it, to feed the dogs. "Quill" came in about 9 o'clock one evening from plowing corn; being very hungry, he took a glass full of whiskey and then ate all of a large corn pone which was on the kitchen table. The pone was the dog's pone, made with the dish water and grease savings of the day. He ate it all and said he never slept better than that night.

Early in the Civil War, the Union army confiscated the "Stone House," using it as both hospital and prison. In 1870, "Quill" sold it to Amos Umstott, father of Miss Ida Umstott and Mrs. Joseph Arnold, whom many of Keyser residents will remember.

When Amos Umstott died, the "Old Stone House" was bought by George Leps. The Leps family lived there until about 1925-30.



Col. Angus William McDonald
A Photograph in 1852



Mrs. Cornelia McDonald
A Photograph about 1890

CHAPTER 6

The Coming of the Railroad - New Creek Depot

With the coming of the railroad in 1852, the village began to develop rapidly on the western bank of New Creek.

James Mosley had died in 1849 and his farm was divided into three parts —

Part I was given to his widow, Mrs. Mary Mosley and her son, William Mosley. It comprised the "homestead" on Welch Street and the fields north of the railroad track as far west as the present Allegheny Street.

Part 2 — Elizabeth Mosley, a daughter, married to Cornelius Long, received Hominy Island and the western part of the farm from the present A Street to the E Street run.

Part 3 — Sarah Mosley, another daughter, married to her first cousin, Joseph McCarty, received the land from the present Center Street, south to Lincoln Street and west to Mineral Street.

In addition each of these plots of land was allotted a "wood lot" on what is now Fort Hill, site of Potomac State College.

Another Mosley heir, a son, George Washington Mosley, received a cash settlement.

A central section adjacent to the railroad was laid off into a "Station Lot." It contained several acres; its bounds were — beginning at the present North Water Street crossing of the B&O RR, south on Water Street to Center Street, west to Main Street, north to the Mineral Street crossing of the railroad, then along the railroad right of way to Water Street. This was the real nucleus of present-day Keyser.

There were only three dwellings on the Mosley farm at this time

- (1) The original homestead on Welch Street
- (2) Mrs. Cornelius Long's home on Hominy Island
- (3) The home of Mrs. Joseph McCarty on Center Street, where the Vernon Twigg property is now.

The Mosleys owned a number of negro slaves. Near the "homestead" were two trees about 6 feet apart, each having iron rings bolted into its trunk. This was where they flogged their slaves, tying the victim's arms to the iron rings.

One Mosley son, George Washington Mosley, took a cash settlement as his portion of the estate and engaged in many businesses here until his death in 1896. In 1852 he built the New Creek Hotel by the railroad station at the eastern end of Mozelle Street, facing the railroad. Part of the hotel is still extant at 208 Mozelle Street. It was built to accommodate passengers on the railroad and furnish an eating shop for the trains as there were no dining cars on the B&O at that time. Washington Mosley's wife, Susan (Myers) Mosley supervised the cooking.

For the first two years of the hotel's existence, it was rented to John W.C. Miers. The following item is of interest.—

"An election was held May 25, 1854, in District No. 1 Hampshire

Co., Va., at the house of John W. C. Miers at Paddy Town."

"Samuel Arnold, Robert K. Sheetz, James Paris, John Wineow and Nimrod Alkire. Commissioners."

"Cornelius R. Long, Conductor."

John W. C. Miers was the grandfather of Miss Josephine Miers of Mozelle St.

John Grimes bought a large lot on the western side of Main Street, from Armstrong Street corner to where Jay's Shoe Store is now and extending through to what is now Davis Street, on which he built several small dwellings and a livery stable, all in the 1850's.

The First Methodist Church, organized in 1850, built a wooden church on a stone foundation at the corner of Welch and North Water Street where the Shaffer Electric Co. is now. The first members were —

Mrs. Mary (McCarty) Mosley, widow of James Mosley.

George Washington Mosley, her son

Mrs. Susan (Myers) Mosley, his wife

Aaron Singleton

Mrs. Mary Singleton, his wife

William E. Mytinger

The Methodists built a parsonage, still standing today at 106 East Piedmont Street.

The other pre-Civil War Church in Keyser was the Mt. Hope Presbyterian, organized in 1853, in the parlour of the Robert K. Sheetz mansion, now the home of Dr. From, and now known as the Radical Hill Mansion house. They built a church in 1855 at 152 Overton Place on land donated by Mrs. Sarah (Mosley) McCarty. A graveyard surrounded the church. About 25 years ago the graves were removed to provide a site for the Boy Scout Cabin. In a separate chapter a list of those once buried there will be given.

Col. James H. Dayton, son of the Rev. Roland Dayton of 21st Bridge, built a large home at the juncture of Main and East Piedmont Streets. This house was recently demolished to provide a site for the J. Paul Blundon home. It is to be noted that Colonel Dayton was a full U.S.A. colonel and later fought at Vicksburg, Mississippi in the Civil war.

Where Dr. Clem Montgomery now has his office and home, James I. Barrick had his two story home in the 1850s.

One of Col. Dayton's brothers had a home, still standing, on the river bank below the east end of Argyle Street.

The house on Halde Street, long the home of N. Creed Taylor, was built long before the Civil War.

Soon after Col. Angus W. McDonald moved away from Keyser, the name of the post office was changed on August 8, 1857, to New Creek Station, Virginia; Norman C. Smoot was post master.

In 1852, Col. William McCarty Armstrong, a nephew of Mrs. Mary (McCarty) Mosley, and son of William Armstrong, Senior and his wife, Elizabeth (McCarty) Armstrong, purchased much of the Mosley land at New Creek Station. The tract bought extended from Main to Street.

He built a large brick mansion house where the Keyser High School is. It had extensive grounds around it. He also had a general store in a one story building facing the railroad at the rear of the present Army & Navy Store building, corner of Main and Armstrong Streets. Armstrong Street was named for him. His father had been sheriff of Hampshire County.

During this decade there was a water powered shoe factory at the southern end of Willow Avenue on New Creek. Several stores were built on Patrick Street and a livery stable on Water Street at Armstrong. Keyser was beginning to grow.

The compiler of this history had a great aunt who lived here at 119 Center Street, during the decade before the Civil War. She said the favorite place to pick huckleberries was at the corner of North Mineral and Piedmont Streets. Center Street was a dirt road, much like a country road with fences on each side. When she was about six years old, if she had been a "good girl," her mother would dress her up in her "good clothes" on Saturday afternoon and let her walk down the road to Aunt Sally McCarty's house (the present Vernon Twigg house site) and visit with Aunt Sally who would have tea and cookies for her. Aunt Sally had had four children, all of whom died of scarlet fever.

Twice yearly her mother would take her to Cumberland on the train to shop. The mother would have the children stand on the back porch to watch for the train. The view from Center Street to beyond what is now "Z Tower" was uninterrupted by any buildings. When the children saw the smoke of the engine, they and their mother would hurry across the vacant field to the passenger station.

This aunt also attended the Mt. Hope Presbyterian Sunday School on Overton Place, and remembered sitting, when she was a small child, on the knee of the young pastor to learn her catechism. He was from New York state and had red hair and boarded at the Armstrong mansion. His last name was Woodworth and later he went to Burlington, W.Va., where his descendants still reside.

Soon all this would be changed by the conflict of the Civil War.



Main Street, Looking North, KEYSER, WEST VIRGINIA
Early 1920's

CHAPTER 7

The Civil War Period

Col. Edward McCarty Armstrong was the largest land owner and most prominent business man at New Creek Station in 1858; he lived in the newly built mansion where Keyser High School now stands, and had the principal store. The post office was in his store.

His first wife, Hanna Pancake of Romney, died here in the mansion on August 3, 1854.

He was elected delegate from Hampshire County to the Virginia Convention held at Richmond, February 12, 1861, which was to consider Virginia's secession from the Union. Mr. Armstrong voted against the Ordinance of Secession; however, his first loyalty was to his state, he therefore wholeheartedly supported the Confederacy. He joined the Confederate army and went into eastern Virginia, leaving his father, William Armstrong, his second wife and his children at New Creek. His store was taken over by Col. James H. Dayton, who became postmaster here on April 28, 1862. Soon after this Col. Dayton joined the Union army.

New Creek was an important military base during the War. Its fort was built and occupied in 1861. It was important because it commanded roads leading to the South Branch and Shenandoah Valleys — to Romney, Petersburg, Moorefield, Franklin, and Winchester.

During the war, it was a training camp for Union soldiers from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, thousands of whom trained here, but only 500 to 1,000 at any given time. A permanent garrison with cavalry was maintained to protect the railroad.

The principal fort was Fort Fuller, also called Fort Kelly, which occupied the site of the Administration building of Potomac State College. Hoover Hollow road was guarded by a swivel gun position, called Fort William, at the juncture of B Street and Fort Avenue. As a boy, the author played in its trenches.

Fort Piano was on top of the steep mountains just east of New Creek, back of Willow Avenue. There were cannons on Queens' Point.

In the Mount Hope Presbyterian church yard, above Cliff Street, on Overton Place, there were nine pound cannon to protect the New Creek road (now South Water Street).

During the War, Keyser's two churches — the Methodist and the Presbyterian were burned accidentally by careless soldiers.

The first local shooting engagement here was in June 1861, when a company of Confederate Infantry marching all night from Romney, came to Bull Neck Mountain at Lover's Leap here and burned the Twenty-first railroad bridge.

Later General Averell's great raid on Salem, Virginia, was launched from New Creek and after the raid returned here.

On November 28, 1864, a Confederate force under General Rosser, managed by wearing some stolen blue Union uniforms, to penetrate Fort Fuller about 10:00 a.m. They withdrew about 4:00

p.m. While there, they captured about 400 Union soldiers and also several private citizens, all of whom were taken to Libby Prison, Richmond. Among the citizens captured were — Andrew Shillingburg, of Elk Garden, I.D. Caldwell, and Marshall M. Sayre.

The author's great aunt recounted to me how one Union soldier, to escape capture, hid in her mother's pig pen at the rear of 119 Center Street. Her mother, pretending to feed the hogs, took food to the soldier. He hid there until the confederates had withdrawn.

The only fatality was a Confederate soldier, who was killed at the corner of Main and Center Streets, where Minnich's Flower Shop is now. His body lay there three days in the open field until burial in the Armstrong Mansion yard, now the Keyser High School yard.

Mr. John Hughes came to Keyser in 1861 and had a general store here. In his biography published in 1893 it states, "He (Mr. Hughes) came to Keyser in 1861 and had a mercantile establishment at this place. He carried on a very extensive business up to 1864, doing a cash business of about \$500.000 daily, but in November of that year a raid was made on the town and the troops (confederates) robbed his store of about \$15,000 worth of goods. Mr. Hughes saved about \$20,000.00 in cash, which he had on hand, about \$10,000.00 of which was desposited with him. He made his escape across the Potomac into Maryland, hid this money there, and while on his return, came very near being made a prisoner of war."

Mr. Hughes was the father of Mrs. Nettie Hughes Carrier, and an uncle of Charles Siever, Sr.

The official report on the losses of the Union Army resulting from this raid are as follows:

"Army supplies captured at New Creek, W.Va. by Gen. Thomas LaFayette Rosser (Confederate Army) in the raid of November 28, 1864 —

Clothing, Camp and Garrison Equipment.	100 axes
225 hats	750 Great Coats (Cavalry & Infantry)
160 dress coats	300 caps (kepis)
1200 trousers (cavalry)	1400 uniform jackets
400 blouses (coats)	500 trousers (infantry)
1500 pairs of drawers	1500 flannel shirts
2000 pairs of stockings	500 pairs of boots
250 knapp sacks	300 woolen blankets
300 canteens	250 rubber blankets
100 spades	250 haversacks
100 camp kettles	100 shovels
50 hatchets	100 mess pans
23 guidons	4 camp colors
500 shelter tents	4 wall tents
54 Sibley tent stoves	350 pick axes & handles
8 hospital tents	150 Company & Regimental Books

Approximate Value: \$34,000.00

Means of Transportation

76 single sets of horse and mule harnesses (worn)

4 four horse wagons
21 two horse wagons
3 ambulances
39 mules
118 horses, all serviceable
169 horses, unfit for service and a large portion of same worthless.

Approximate value \$30,000.00

Forage

25 tons of hay
1600 bushels of grain. Value not over \$3,000.00

Buildings

Most of the buildings were burned; they had been erected by Capt. M.D.W. Loomis, Asst. Quarter Master under direction of Major General Fremont in the spring of 1862.

Approximate cost \$33,000.00

Total losses in stores —

Quarter Master's stores — \$72,000.00
Commissary stores — 18,382.00
Government buildings — 33,000.00
Total — \$123,382.00

A diary kept by a local post office employee, William S. Purgitt, describes the town when news of Lee's surrender was confirmed.

"Monday, April 10th — 1865, cloudy. News confirmed of surrender of Lee and his army. Great rejoicing in this place. All drunk and a number of speeches delivered by — Majors Work, Troxal and others."

"April 11, 1865, New Creek, cloudy and warm. Dull. All stupid. Day passed very quietly. Rain at night."

One of the commanders at Fort Fuller was General Lew Wallace, who later wrote the book, "Ben Hur." Major Benjamin Harrison, later the President of the United States, was a commander here.

The Ringgold Cavalry from south western Pennsylvania were stationed here for most of the War. Col. Mulligan's Chicago Irish Volunteer Regiment from Illinois camped here on St. Cloud Street from Orchard to Gilmore Streets for quite some time.

Some residents went into the Confederate Army. One of whom, Capt. Robert Sheetz, C.S.A., was killed in battle. He is buried at Eusebia Presbyterian Church, Route 46, and was the brother of Miss Sue and Miss Maggie Sheetz, both of whom taught school here for many years.

Keyser held a memorial funeral service for President A. Lincoln as follows:

"April 19, 1865. At the camp of the 22nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Calvary at New Creek, West Virginia (Present city of Keyser, W.Va.)

"On the 19th, while the funeral exercises were being held in Washington over the murdered President, in accordance with an order from the General-in-Chief, an artillery salute was fired from

the fort, and the troops formed at their various camps to hold funeral services. Our regiment marched out without arms and formed on three sides of a square, while the field officers, the speakers, the band and quite a concourse of citizens occupied the other side. Lieutenant Welch of Company C, made an eloquent and touching address in eulogy of the lamented President. He was followed by Chaplain Patterson. The men retained their places in silence, giving most respectful attention. The band played appropriate music and the exercises closed. Business was suspended and flags draped and hung at half mast."

Farrar, Samuel C., *The Twenty-Second Pennsylvania Cavalry, and the Ringgold Battalion, 1861-1865.* (The New Werner Company, Akron, O., and Pittsburgh, 1911), pg. 461.

1865 April 19 (At New Creek, W.Va.)

(Wed.)

"This morning I shut myself up and bend every effort of my mind to prepare an address for 12 M. today. I never labored harder, and I have the consciousness of having succeeded beyond my expectations

Never was a task so difficult. Yet when a man wills to do anything he can do it — if at all within the field of possibilities.

The theme was too awful for any youthful mind to handle, -Death of Lincoln."

From the Civil War diaries of Robert Caldwell Welch, Lieutenant, Co. C, 22d Pa. Volunteer Cavalry (In the possession of his grandson, James P. Welch, Hampton, Virginia)

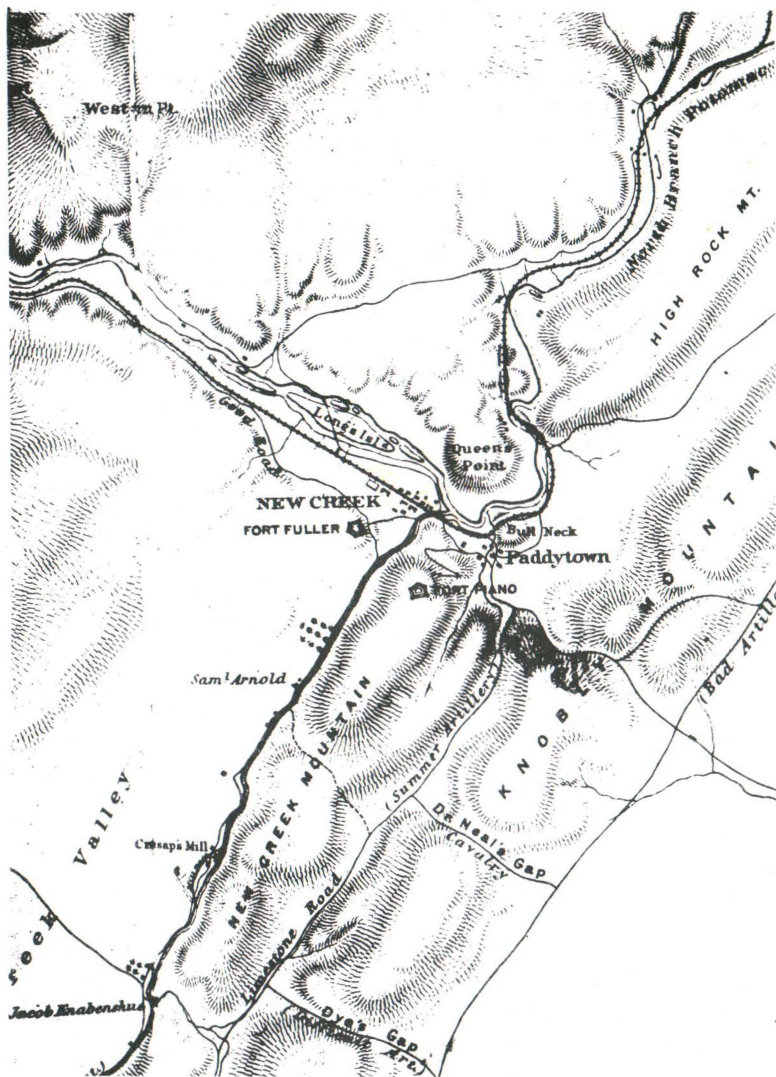
Lt. Welch was then 25 years and 8 months old.

"April 19, 1865, Wednesday, New Creek, clear and nice, President Abe Lincoln's funeral today. Solemnity prevails. News generally good. Beautiful day. Stores closed. Post office also closed."

From diary of Wm. S. Purgitt, unpublished, in possession of Mrs. Marietta Miller Welch, Keyser, W.Va.



The Keyser Vigilant Reel & Hose Company, circa 1910

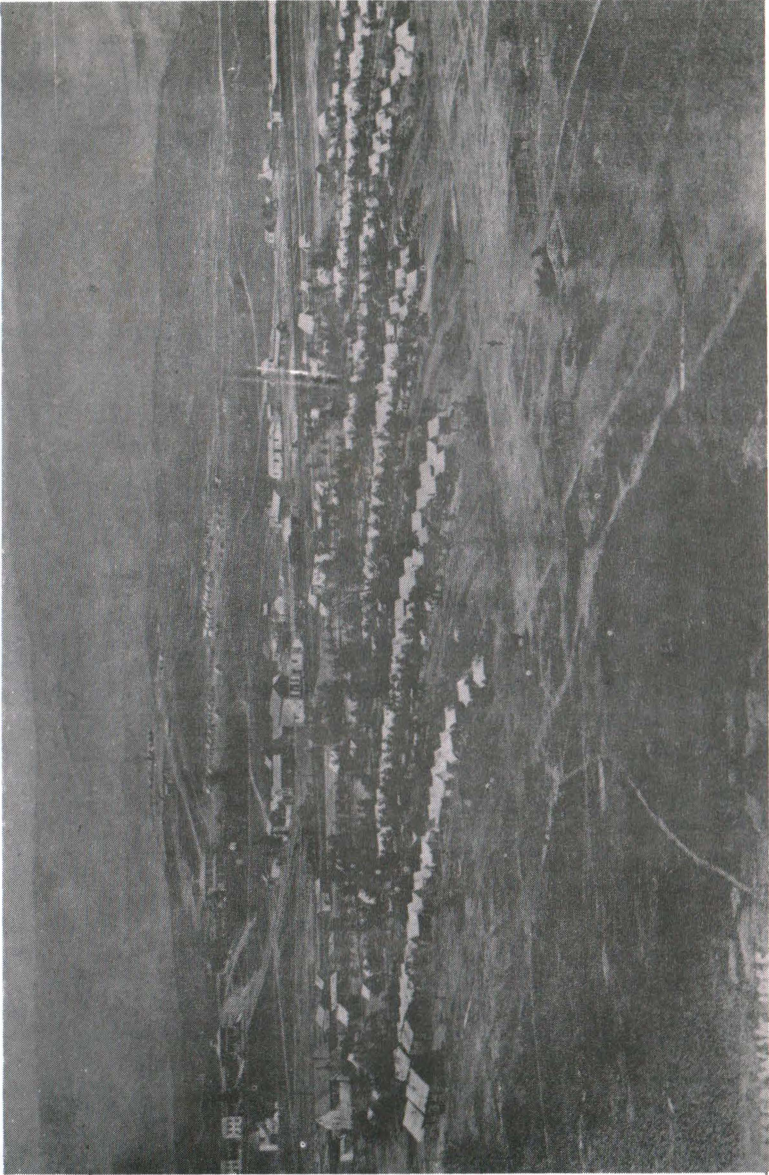


Map of Keyser, W. Va., and vicinity, drawn by John R. Meigs, Lieut. U.S. Engineers in Aug. 1863, from "War of the Rebellion Atlas," Library of Congress.

Where the name Sam'l Arnold occurs is where Boggs' Lumber Supply Store is now;

Cresap's Mill is now the site of "Swede" Wells' home, below and to the left of Cresap's Mill, the cluster of white dots is the first drawn bridge (the Blue Jay).

The cluster of nine white dots above and to the right of the name Sam'l Arnold is a camp of Union soldiers at what is now the southern end of Keyser.



This photo was taken by George W. Parsons in May 1865. The foreground camp is of the 22nd Penna. Cavalry (Ringolds)

The first row of tents in the foreground (actually the back of the camp), from the left of the picture belonged to Co. M; the 2nd row Companies L and K; the 3rd row Companies I and H; the 4th row Companies G and F and the last row Companies E and D.

The officer's quarters were on the further side of the long street (Mozelle St.)

The large, square brick mansion house with cupola in the center of picture was the home of Edw. M. Armstrong, whose store was in the building facing the railroad at the crossing of the railroad at what is now Main St. (rear of present Coffman Fisher Bldg.).

CHAPTER 8

The Post War Period

At the close of the Civil War, New Creek Station, being on the main line of the B&O RR, became the "railhead" for the commercial interests of a large territory — the rail supply and shipping point for Grant, Hardy, Pendleton, and much of Hampshire Counties.

During the war, two residents were delegates to the Wheeling Conventions which began the processes which resulted in the formation of the State of West Virginia. They were James I. Barrick and James Trout, who was the delegate to the second Wheeling Convention.

This part of Hampshire County was predominantly Union in sentiment. The first session of the West Virginia legislature moved the county seat from Romney to Piedmont for the duration of the War.

In 1865 there was much agitation for separating this part of the county from Hampshire and the formation of a new county, which was done in February of 1866. The new county was named Mineral, from its wealth of mineral deposits.

There was much dissention as to whether Piedmont or Keyser was to be the county seat.

In 1865, Col. Edward McCarty Armstrong returned to Keyser and sold his land and home here to the Davis brothers of Piedmont; these were Henry Gassaway Davis, William Davis and Col. Thomas B. Davis. This land extended from Main to A Street, taking in much of Fort Hill.

They were interested in developing their real estate here and used their influence, which was considerable, in New Creek being made the county seat. They had a surveyor lay off 600 lots which they sold for an average of more than \$300.00 each and realized about \$200,000.00 on their sale.

As an inducement to have the courthouse here, they donated to the county court, one acre of ground "just west of the old Union Army blacksmith shop," Armstrong Street (now Harman's Store site) as a site for same. The county court met in an abandoned Union Army Hospital building on the river bank back of Argyle Street and gladly accepted.

The first grand jury met in the same abandoned Hospital building. The record reads:

"At a court held at New Creek in the most easterly Army Hospital building at said place, April 16, 1866, present — Judge E. C. Bunker,

The Grand Jury present —

James Carskadon, foreman

John Arnold

Lambert Ellifritz

Sanford Thrush

George W. Leatherman

Henry Head

John Bailly

Carlton Jones

John Blackiston Fielding A. Barnhouse

John Blue

William Ferrebee

Abraham Stickley

Joseph Workman

Frederick Nethkin

John J Rotruck

Henry Paxton

Edmund Duling

Josup Baker

with Thomas P. Adams, Deputy Clerk."

New Creek was surveyed by Thomas P. Adams and later by Saint Cloud Ambrose, for whom St. Cloud Street is named.

Col. Thomas B. Davis made Keyser his home and lived in the Armstrong mansion until his death in 1911. He was the son of Caleb and Louisa (Brown) Davis of Baltimore. e and his brothers were early developers of Piedmont. The colonel was a banker, coal and lumber magnate, railroad developer, race horse owner and millionaire. At his death, his estate was appraised at over four million dollars.

As for Edward McCarty Armstrong, he went from New Creek to Salem, Virginia. He expected the Norfolk and Western RR to install yards, shops and a round house there. Relying on this, he bought much land there in Salem. The railroad did not build at Salem, leaving the colonel "land poor." He spent the rest of his life in "genteel poverty" in Salem. A street there is named for him as is one in Keyser.

Keyser had no public schools before the War. After the War, a school for white children was held in one of the abandoned Union Army Commisary buildings on the river bank back of Argyle Street. This building was on a six feet high foundation of wooden posts. In a couple of years after it began to be used as the schoolhouse, a high wind blew it off its foundation and it had to be abandoned. School was then held in the basement of the new Court House (built 1868). About 1870, a new brick, two story, school house, with belfry was erected on Court House Square, where Ludwick's Garage is now. This was the school house until 1882, when the large brick school house on South Mineral Street was built at a total cost of \$15,000.00.

Soon after the end of the War, the first Negro school was held in the second story of Hubert Moss' store, corner of Armstrong and North Water Streets. The site is now a parking lot. The first teacher of the Negro school was Walter Lowery, an ex-Union soldier from Ohio, who had been stationed at New Creek during the War. He was the grandfather of T. Warner Lowery and G. Richard Davis.

As to the church edifices here after the War — the oldest existing still in use in Keyser is the Janes' Methodist, a Negro church, built in 1876, at the corner of E. Piedmont and Church Streets. The trustees at the time it was erected were:

Emmanuel Jacobs
Madison Tross
Robert Hiteshaw
Barbour Stewart
Isaac Perry

After the War, the Presbyterians built a church at 116 East Street, which is still standing.

The Methodist of Frostburg, Maryland, were building a new church and sold their old church building to the Methodists at New Creek, who hauled it to Keyser and re-erected it at the corner of Main and Center Streets, where Minnich's Flower Shop is still housed in the old building.

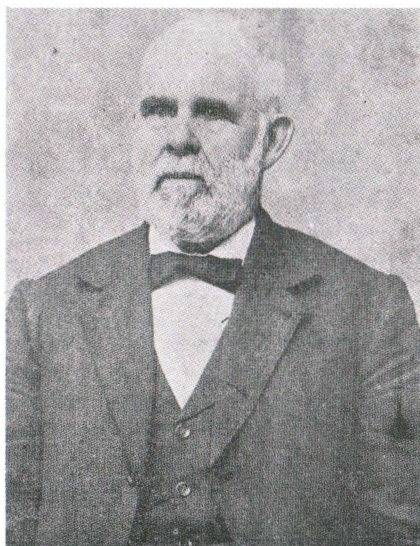
The first Roman Catholic mass was celebrated here sometime during the Civil War by Rev. Father Butler, D.D., chaplain of Col. Mulligan's "Irish" Chicago Battalion, which camped not far from their present church. The first Roman Catholic Church building was St. James' Church, for which James Street was named.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, held their first services in the early 1870s, in the front room of the "Old Stone House," in Mrs. Sidney (Athey) Murphy's apartment. Later, ministers from the Piedmont Southern Methodist Church, preached in the basement of the Presbyterian Church here.

Simon Rudolph, tinsmith, a devout man, started a Southern Methodist Sunday School in the Court House basement in 1874 with 13 pupils. He paid, out of his own pocket, \$20.00 yearly rent for its use.

There was plentiful employment here after 1874, when the railroad moved its Division headquarters, repair shops, and round house to New Creek.

New Creek was still unincorporated. To induce the railroad to move its facilities here, the town was incorporated on November 16, 1874, under the name Keyser, in honor of William Keyser, first vice-president of the B&O RR. Garrett County, Md., had been named for the president of the railroad, John W. Garrett.



HON. T.B. DAVIS,

A man who has worked his way from poverty and obscurity in boyhood to affluence and prominence in mature years, ranking among the ablest and best known financiers and developers. He has done more for this community, perhaps, than any other man. As a recognition of his worth and popularity, he now bears the distinction of being a genial Democratic Congressman in a Republican district.

CHAPTER 9

The Town of Keyser, W. Va.

Keyser was incorporated by certification of the Mineral County Circuit Court, the records:

"The Circuit Court held at Keyser, Mineral County, West Virginia, on November 16, 1874, upon petition of J. T. Hoke, John Hughes, William M. Welch, F.M. Reynolds, and Thomas B. Davis, issued a certificate of incorporation to the town of Keyser, Mineral County, West Virginia, formerly the unincorporated town of New Creek, Mineral County, West Virginia."

It is estimated there were about one thousand in the town at that time. An election was held in January 1875. Elected to office were:

Mayor — J. T. Hoke

Councilmen:

James I. Barrick

Thomas B. Davis

William M. Welch

Arnold Gerstell, M.D.

Fred Huffman

Recorder — Orlando Shay.

John H. Payne was appointed Town Sergeant at a salary of \$2,000.00 yearly.

One of the first ordinances passed by the Council was "An ordinance to prevent the ill treatment of females and lewd and lascivious behavior." Early municipal concerns were a request made to the B&O RR to not let their trains pass through Keyser at a speed of more than 10 miles per hour. The name of High Street was changed to Piedmont Street. The newly incorporated town had no street lights, only a few board walk pavements, no sewers, a few drainage ditches, the water supply depended on private wells, no paved streets, a few stepping stones at the more important crossings; pigs, chickens, and other animals roamed at large on the streets and alleys. They were very muddy in wet weather. The streets around Court House Square — East, West, and Court Streets — were paved with cobble stones. There was an outdoor privy at the court house.

In the minutes of the town council of August 14, 1876, it was "Ordered that the Sheriff be notified of the condition of the Privy in the Courthouse Square and he be requested to confer with the Court in regard to removal of same."

The first licensing of saloons was April 25, 1875, when seven licenses to sell "at retail spirituous liquors, wines, porter, ale, and beer and drinks of like nature." In 1880 the census gave the population of Keyser to be 1,693; there were 12 saloons licensed by the town that year, which was one saloon for every 141 men, women, and children in Keyser. Each saloon did a flourishing business.

There was very little social life here. Most people worked so hard they had little time for recreation. The B&O employees worked 12 hours each day, 7 days each week at \$1.00 per day. The family which

could afford a parlour organ and lace curtains considered themselves fortunate. Men came home from work, tired out from the 12 hour day (from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.), "washed up" outside the kitchen door in a wash basin, ate in the kitchen and if it was winter, sat in the kitchen to smoke; if it was summer, work in the vegetable garden until dark, but whether winter or summer, 9:00 p.m. was bed time for the working man.

Some of the men would go to "lodge" a couple of nights each month, yet had to be home by 9:00 p.m., in order to be at work by 6:00 a.m.

The first fraternal organization (lodge) in Keyser was the Queens Point Lodge No. 78, I.O.O.F., instituted September 25, 1875; the second lodge was Olive Branch Lodge No. 25 Knights of Pythias, instituted March 3, 1876. The Davis Lodge No. 5 A.F.&A.M. was instituted February 24, 1889.

The Odd Fellows Lodge established the Queens' Point Cemetery in 1875. Prior to that, burials had been in the Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church yard, the Alkire Burial Ground, where Keyser's Radio Station is now and earlier in the Mosley graveyard in the western end of Maple Avenue. Many people, both white and colored, were buried there in the early days. The graves go back to 1825. Mr. and Mrs. James Mosley are buried there, as is Cornelius Long (father of I. M. Long) and William Thistle, a relative of the Romulus Thistle mentioned earlier in this history. Part of the graveyard became the site of the Potomac Pottery. When excavating for the pottery many human bones were unearthed. The remant of the graveyard is now in a very sad condition, being part of a motor-trailor court.

Just before the establishment of Queen's Point Cemetery, a cemetery for white people was started in the field now belonging to the Coach Lough estate on Radical Hill. There were four or five white interments there. The minutes of the Town of Keyser of March 29, 1875 say "Paid John H. Payne, Town Sergeant, for removing the remains of an unknown man, \$7.25." This was a white stranger, his burial was in the Radical Hill Cemetery. Several years after his burial, the man's wife traced him to Keyser. Mr. James Rine, Herndon Athey's grandfather, was able to show the wife just where her husband was buried and she had his remains moved to another city. The Radical Hill Cemetery soon became the nego burial place of Keyser and is called "Thorn Rose Cemetery." Now negros and whites may, if they so desire, be buried in any cemetery of this community.

Epidemics of typhoid fever, scarlet fever, and diptheria were annual and dreaded occurrences; there were also cases of small pox. In September, 1877, among other items listed, the town bought of John Keys, one quart of whiskey, price \$2.10 for use of a small pox patient.

Sanitation was not at all good in Keyser in those days. I shall give one example. On North Church Street in 1876, in a 30 ft. by 15 ft. back yard were — a coal house, a board walk, a privy, a well, a chicken

pen and a pig pen. In the pig pen were raised that year 2 hogs, which butchered at 450 lbs. weight each. This was not considered unsanitary. The dwelling there had no screens over the doors nor windows. Flies were numerous and came and went into the house at will. Also, cut apples were dried on the kitchen roof as well.

A hall for meetings, home talent shows and other public entertainment was built at the corner of North Church and Center Streets in 1875 and was called Fraser's Hall. The Town minutes of February 21, 1876, read, "It is ordered that a theatrical performance be permitted to be given without payment of a license in Fraser's Hall, for the benefit of the Independent Band of Keyser." Within a year after this, the Hall burned to the ground. The home of Mrs. Myrtle Rogers, Center Street, now occupies the site.

Soon after this, a hall was provided in the newly built brick building, corner of Main and Center Streets, which had an upstairs auditorium, and was called Johnson's Hall. The pool room is now there.

The first public program in the new Johnson's Hall was a home talent show, complete with villain and pursuing police, put on by the Volunteer Firemen of Keyser. Keyser has been very fortunate in always having volunteer firemen who have been ever ready to fight its fires, both efficiently and courageously. For many years there were two companies — Vigilant Reel and Hose Companies No. 1 and No. 2; one at the council chamber, the other on West Piedmont St. Co. No. 2 had a hand drawn hose reel and a hand pump on wheels. These were the predecessors of our present Fire Company, a group of men, efficient and faithful, who have our confidence and respect.

February 5, 1877 found a committee of the council considering the installation of coal oil street lamps. The lamps could be bought in Baltimore for \$5.00 each. They planned to ask the residents to furnish the oil. By June 2, 1883, there were 15 street lamps in Keyser, the western most one was at James and West Piedmont Streets. On that date it was ordered that the lamp-lighter (the first one was W. N. Athey, salary \$9.99 monthly) extinguish all street lamps at 10:00 p.m., except five which were to be let burn all night. These were — one each at:

Mineral and Piedmont Streets

Mineral and Armstrong Streets

Main and Center Streets

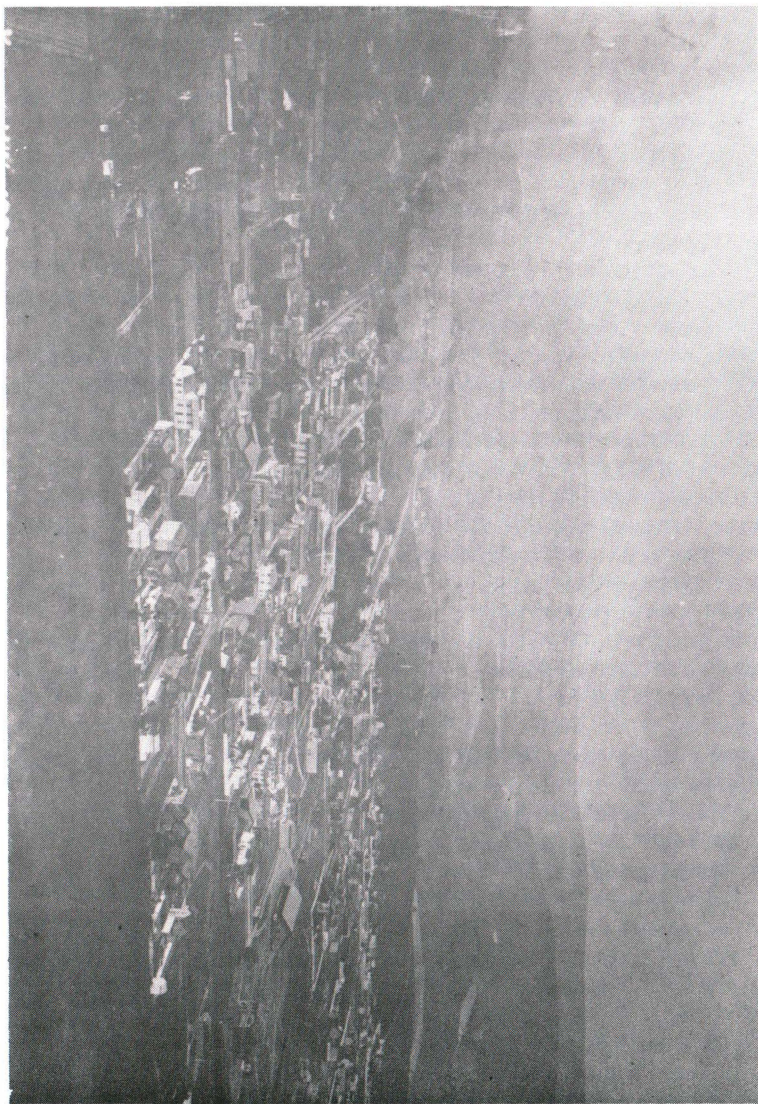
Armstrong and Main Streets

Armstrong and Main Streets

The first doctors here before the Civil War were Dr. Green, who lived on Green Mountain and Dr. Arnold Gerstell. Soon after the War, Dr. Thomas H. West came to practice as Dr. Gerstell's assistant. Emergency operations were done in the Court House basement on ordinary table tops. Gerstell and West had a drug store and office over it where Markle's store is on North Water Street.

Dr. Charles S. Hoffman began his practice of medicine here in 1876. He later built Keyser's first hospital in 1903 or 1904.

Most of the births were in the homes and were attended by midwives. Three negro ladies and the daughters of two of them were the principal practicing midwives of Keyser — Mrs. Sarah Rossen, nee Hollingsworth, Mrs. Jane Biggs and her daughter, Mrs. Emma Gillum, and Mrs. Rebecca Hardy and her daughter, Miss Harriet Hardy. All of these were highly esteemed and respected by the entire community.



KEYSER, WEST VIRGINIA 1895

CHAPTER 10

Keyser Becomes Modern

Among the many changes made in Keyser between 1885 and 1900, the following were considered extremely modern — even luxuries.

A High School was added in 1885. It was housed on the upper floor of the grammar school. The graduating class of 1889 consisted of one girl, Miss Blanche Harrison.

The Town water works, built in 1892, at the expense of \$45,000.00, derived its water from a spring on a mountain southeast of the town, 290 feet higher than Keyser, with j resulting pressure of 126 lbs. per square inch.

Keyser had as yet no bank. Merchants and others of Keyser used the Davis Brothers Bank of Piedmont. The National Bank of Keyser was chartered July 15, 1886, F.M. Reynolds, president; James Thornton Carskadon, cashier; John D. Gelwick, George T. Carskadon, N.J. Crooks, and J.H. Markwood, directors. Capital was \$50,000.00

An electric light company was organized. The Keyser Light and Power Company, began operation in 1895. The capacity was 1,000, sixteen candle power incandescent lights, and 40, two thousand candle power "arc lights." The president was F.M. Reynolds ; the directors, William Ellsworth Crooks, Harry G. Buxton, J.H. Markwood, and James Thornton Carskadon.

Main Street extended south only to Cliff Street, where it ended. The "down town" streets were bricked between 1900 and 1911.

A telephone company built a line from Keyser to Burlington in 1892.

In front of the Court House a public drinking fountain was installed in 1892. It was in three levels or basins, one for man, one for horses, and one for dogs.

A second railroad, built by the Davis Brothers and their brother-in-law, Senator Stephen Elkins, the West Virginia Central RR, began to serve Keyser in the 1880s and had its passenger station in the middle of North Main Street at the rear of Mozelle Street. The train backed across a bridge from McCoole, Maryland, to and from Keyser.

After 1900 the pace for improvements increased. A new High School building was erected in 1904.

Natural gas for illumination and heating was piped into the city in 1905.

In 1904, the Hoffman Hospital was built.

The state established a Preparatory School connected with the West Virginia University. This school was built on Fort Hill on the site of the Civil War Fort. The land was donated by Col. Thomas B. Davis. F.M. Reynolds assisted in getting the school built here. It began to function in 1904. It is now Potomac State College.

Keyser had a most outstanding Band — the McIlwee Concert Band; their leader and director was William H. McIlwee, a very gifted musician. If there was a spark of music in a man, Mr. McIlwee could bring it out. The band was in the inaugural parade in 1912. Professor

McIlwee, as he was called, became the Director of Music at Hamley High School, Winchester, Va. He could inspire a genuine appreciation of good music in everyone.

Keyser also became the home of people of many different nationalities. A German, Mr. John G. Koelz, had a famous bakery and confectionary here. Lawrence Wippel, an Austrian, had a bakery here. The first Jewish tailor here was Barnet Herschovits. Hyman Kaplan, a former rabbi, began his famous Kaplan's Clothing store; a Greek, Mr. Argiroupolis, began the Royal Restaurant, Mr. Daskal had a Confectionary.

Keyser even had a Chinese Laundry, beginning in 1904, with Wing Kee, Charlie Yee, Yee Sam Sing, Jim Yee, Paul Yee and ending with Mah Kim.

An Italian green goods wholesale company, Fertitti and Aversa, operated here on Armstrong Street.

There were many Irish people here whose descendants are some of the best citizens of Keyser today. Thomas Naughton of Green Mountain; also the Deegans, the Dorseys, Wards, the Dugans and Gilmores, Burns and McClandishs, Tahaneys, Melodys, and many more.

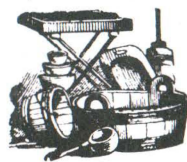
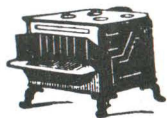
Keyser was a true melting pot.

A large number of splendid Italian people came here mostly from Caulonia, Reggio Calabria, in southern Italy; the Calemines, Fazzalores, Pezzanites, DeMasis, Alveros, Mayolos, Franklins, the Citarellis, Cirillos, the Femias, Fantis and Fantos, DelSignores, and Centifontis, Corbaccios and many others. All were good people.

Many fine Jewish people engaged in business here; the Shapiros, Shears, Dr. Koplovitz, Moses Kaplon, Cy Davidson, David Shapiro and others.

For a small town it is surprising how cosmopolitan and international in origin Keyser's people are.

Among the famous eating places of former days were: the Martin House Hotel, the Keys House, Mrs. Mary Richmond (Rich) Athey's south end hotel, Mrs. Rose Greenwade Yate's Restaurant, Mrs. Bier's Hotel, Hamill Brothers' Rosemont Restaurant, the "Beanery" at B Street, Walker Roger's Greasy Spoon Restaurant, and many others.



CHAPTER 11

South Keyser

The town's limits toward the south ended in a market garden field at what is now 175 South Main Street and beyond that the entire "southend" extended to Carskadon Lane and was a market garden operated by Col. Thomas R. Carskadon, and also at one time by Walter Lowery.

On South Water Street at the corner of Chestnut Street, Mr. Willhide had a wagon making shop. Farther south on Water Street, Jack Athey and his wife, Mary Richmond (Rines) Athey, had a hostelry for travelers and stables.

The owner of this land from Lincoln Street south was Col. Thomas R. Carskadon of the Radical Hill Farm and mansion. Col. Carskadon was born in Hampshire County, May 17, 1837, died here in 1905. He was a farmer, stockman, a fluent, "silver-tongued" public speaker, a progressive thinker, a pioneer, stalwart Methodist, and was the candidate for Vice-President on the Prohibition Party's ticket of 1884. He prided himself on his advanced opinions on many issues of the day; for this reason he named his home and farm "Radical Hill." He began to sell off building lots in south Keyser in the late 1880s and in the 1890s. Soon there were several houses there and the residents became interested in incorporation.

On December 10, 1903, a meeting was held at 7:30 p.m., at Kime's Drug Store, North Main Street, to consider incorporation of the Carskadon addition to Keyser.

William D. Stewart was elected temporary chairman: H.H. Poling, secretary. It was moved and seconded that the town be called Brooklyn, West Virginia.

A census committee was appointed as follows: W. Roy Kimes, William Stewart, O. Orndorff and William T. Mulledy.

James Trenter was appointed to have hand bill struck.

On March 10, 1904, a meeting was held and a collection taken up to pay D.G. Martin, surveyor, and O.A. Hood, lawyer, for services rendered by them in the incorporation of South Keyser.

South Keyser by this time had been granted a charter by the West Virginia Legislature. The Town of Keyser was only incorporated by certification of the Circuit Court.

Those contributing to pay cost of incorporation were:

George McIlwee
William A. Willhide
Frank L. Fisher
Charles Cook
H.H. Poland
L.A. Iser
William T. Mulledy
James H. Trenter

Thomas R. Carskadon
William D. Stewart
John Biser
Boyd Linthicum
Aaron Welton
R.W. Richmond
Charles F. Rice
Harry O. Willhide
Dan B. Biser

A mayor, recorder, and council were elected in August 1904. The newly elected officials held their first meeting in Willhide's Wagon

Shop, corner of Chestnut and South Water Streets, on September 2, 1904. Present were:

Mayor — Thomas R. Carskadon

Councilmen:

James H. Trenter

Charles A. Rice

William A. Willhide

John Biser

Dan B. Biser

William D. Stewart

and William T. Mulledy

The officers for 1905 were:

Mayor — Luther Stafford

Councilmen —

Daniel B. Biser

James H. Trenter

William D. Stewart

John Biser

Charles A. Rice

George H. McIlwee

and William H. Wenner

Mr. Wenner resigned and James S. Cowger was appointed to fill his term.

The officers for 1906 were:

Mayor — Luther Stafford

Councilmen —

James S. Cowger

Dan Biser

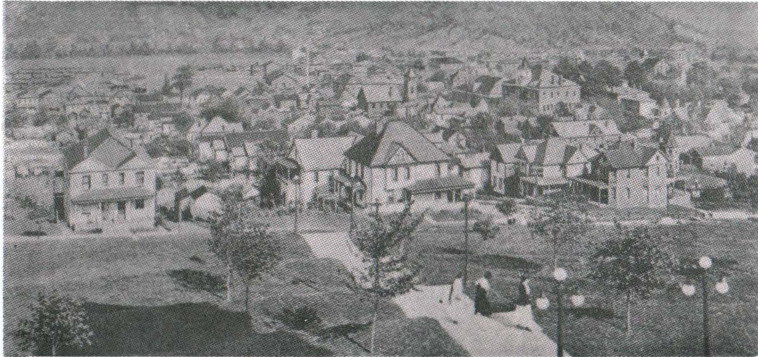
James H. Trenter

John Biser

William D. Stewart

Robert Ludwick

The town had a council chamber and jail. It continued to function as a separate town until it was joined with Keyser as the City of Keyser in 1913.



View of Keyser, West Virginia from Potomac State College Campus

CHAPTER 12

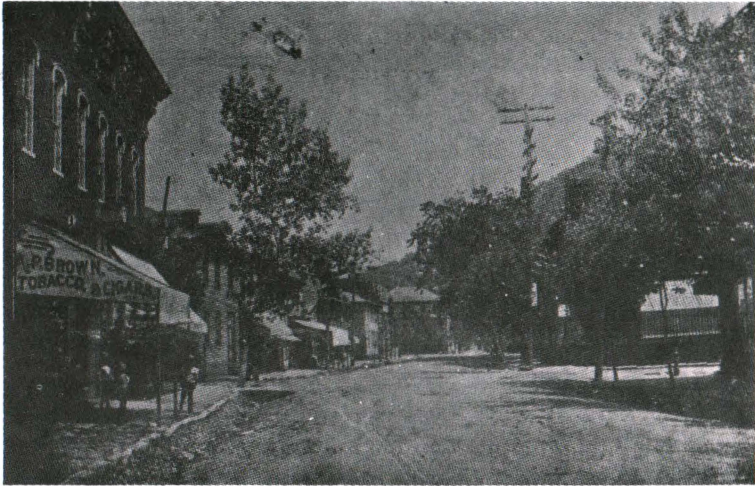
The Town Becomes the City of Keyser

There was strong feeling that the two towns, Keyser and South Keyser, should unite as one city. A charter for the City of Keyser was passed by the state legislature in 1913, uniting the two.

Richard A. Welch, a young attorney, was the city's first Mayor. The new charter re-organized the entire municipal government, reduced the council to three members, provided for a City Clerk, who would also be the judge of the Municipal Court, provided a police department under a chief of police, etc.

The city still operates under this charter.

This brings this history to 1912; let others continue to write it beyond this date.



Armstrong Street, Looking East - KEYSER, WEST VIRGINIA - 1895



The same view as above years later with sidewalks added

CHAPTER 13

A List of Those Buried in the Mt. Hope Presbyterian Churchyard,
Herewith is a list of those buried in the Mount Hope Presbyterian Churchyard, Keyser, W.Va., copied some years ago before the removal of the graves and the destruction of the grave stones to make a site for the Boy Scout Cabin.

SUSAN C., wife of Washington Mosley, died April 10, 1896, aged 68 years, 8 days, born 1828.

GEORGE WASHINGTON MOSLEY, died 1897.

GIBSON MCCARTY, died October 10, 1864, aged 7 years, 10 months, 27 days.

ANNIE D. MCCARTY, died September 27, 1864, aged 5 years, 7 months, 1 day.

CHARLES MCCARTY, died December 5, 1862, aged 11 years, 10 months, 14 days.

SUSAN MCCARTY, died October 28, 1862, aged 8 years, 7 months, 16 days.

Note — the above four McCarty children's parents were Joseph C. and Sally C. (Mosley) McCarty and all died of scarlet fever. The McCartys had no other children.

SARAH C. MCCARTY, wife of Joseph C. McCarty, died September 19, 1893, aged 74 years, 3 months, 22 days. (born May 22, 1811)

JOSEPH C. MCCARTY, died November 19, 1881, aged 71 years, 5 months, 28 days. (born May 22, 1810)

"The pains of death are past,

Labor and sorrow cease,

And life's long warfare

Closed at last,

His soul is found in peace."

WILLIAM D. TROUT, died May 28, 1873, aged 36 years, 10 months, 5 days, (born June 23, 1836).

Note — Mr. Trout, unmarried, was related by marriage to the late William S. Caldwell. He had a general store on the corner of Patrick and East Streets. He went to Baltimore to do some spring buying. On his return to Keyser, he soon developed small pox. He boarded at Mrs. Eliza Davis's, 213 North Water Street, where he died. He was buried at night by two negroes, who took his body to the graveyard in a wheel barrow, lighted by a lantern.

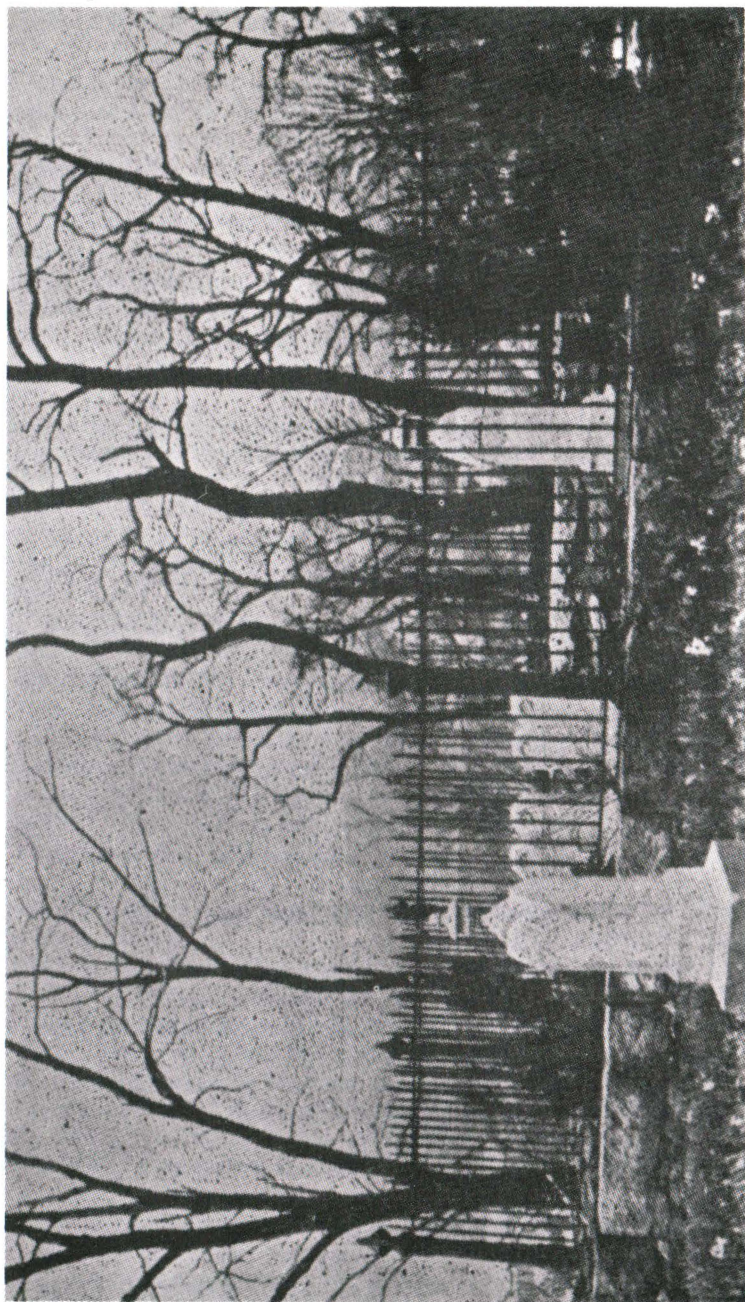
GEORGETTE BODINE, daughter of George and Sarah M. Bodine, died February 8, 1870, aged 3 years, 5 months, 20 days.

Note: There is a birth record in the Mineral County Court which reads: "Georgette Bodean, born August 12, 1866 in Ohio, daughter of George and Sarah F. Bodean." Mr. Bodine was, I am told, a brakeman on the B&O RR.

ARTHUR K. HUGHES, son of John and Eliza Hughes, died August 20, 1867, aged 7 months.

-----WEST, infant son of Thomas H. West and wife.

JAMES CRAWFORD, Co. E, 57th Pennsylvania Infantry. No date of death given. He was a Union Soldier who died here during the Civil War.



Presbyterian Graveyard, Overton Place

CHAPTER 14

List of Victims of the Influenza Epidemic of 1918

The 1918, so called Spanish Influenza, epidemic of a most fatal disease which encircled the entire world towards the end of the First World War.

This list is a condensation taken from the obituaries in the Keyser Mineral Daily News of October 22, 1918, giving the names of all those Keyser people who had died between October 1st and October 15th, 1918. Not all died in Keyser, for example, William Shank of Keyser, died in Camp Lee, yet he is included. All except one are listed as having died with the influenza.

MRS. BESSIE OSTER, a housewife and mother.

ROBERT W. BOYCE, aged 24 years.

MISS LOLA MCILWEE, aged 15 years.

ROY ROTRUCK, at Camp Lee, Va.

FAYE HOFFMAN RINARD, aged 1 year.

VIRGIL TEPHABOCK, Camp Lee, Va.

SLOAN HOOD, aged 10 years.

PATRICK F. WHITEHOUSE

MISS KATIE THOMAS

SAM BRADY, B&O Engineer.

JAMES M. PARIS

WILLIAM B. LEATHERMAN

PAUL EDWARD GRAPES, aged 9 years

ALBERT S. LILLER, aged 17 years, son of H. P. Liller.

WILLIAM SHANK, Camp Lee, Va.

MISS BESSIE S. WAGELEY, school teacher, October 5th.

ESTEL FRANKLIN ATHEY, 22 years, son of George F. Athey, died October 6 at 4:30 a.m.

MRS. ESTEL F. ATHEY, aged 20 years, died October 6, at 8:30 a.m.

HARRY H. LEWIS, aged 32 years, Machinist from Canton, Ohio.

MRS. ANTHONY WHETZEL

MRS. CHARLES STUDENWALT

LEE REEDY, aged 41 years, B&O Conductor.

MISS EDNA RAVENSCRAFT, aged 10 years, daughter of Lynn Ravenscraft.

MRS. LULA LILLER, nee Shrout, widow of Edward Liller.

ENOCH SOUTHERLAND

MRS. IKE W. ISER, died October 7.

ALBIN I. ROGERS, Post Office Clerk, father of John I. Rogers.

MRS. L. D. FERTIG, nee Cheevers.

MISS ELIZABETH MEYERS, aged 5 years, daughter of the Episcopalian Rector.

R.S. COOPER, a stranger, died in the K of P Armory.

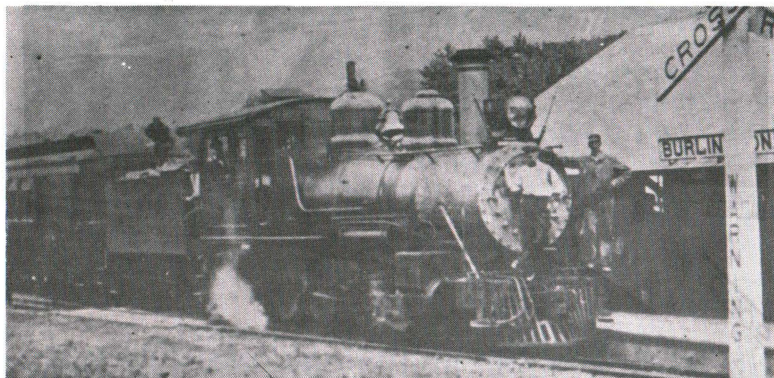
MRS. JOHN S. ROGERS

C.B. WELCH, aged 37 years, worked at the B&O Roundhouse.

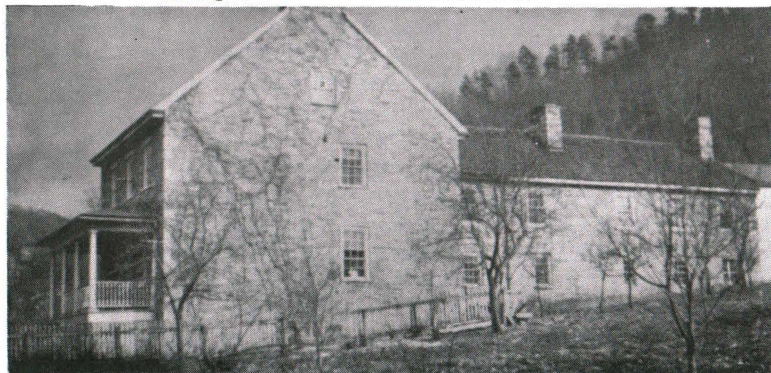
THE REV. FRANCIS A. THEADO, aged 29 years, Pastor, Church of Assumption.

MRS. DEMPSEY RICE
 LOUIE "COOSTER" BOLIN, aged 5 years, grandson of H. P. Liller.
 INFANT SON OF LLOYD TRENTON, aged 22 months.
 CHILD OF THOMAS FOLK, aged 1 year.
 ADAM HENDERSON, negro and butcher.
 MARY BRYANT, negro.
 CHARLES EDWARD BRIGHT, aged 34 years, Railway Postal Clerk.
 MRS. TUCKER, nee Stonebreaker, aged 28 years.
 RUSSEL VIRTS, aged 10 years, son of J.W. Virts.
 MRS. RUSSELL (DELIA) LITTEN, housewife and mother.
 CECIL LUTMAN, aged 17 years, killed in B&O yards, fixing an air hose.
 LESTER CAVANAUGH, son of Frank and Bertha Cavanaugh.
 AN ITALIAN INFANT, in the West End.
 A BOYCE INFANT, on B St.
 MRS. RUEY STEWART, nee Orris, wife of William V. Stewart.
 VIRGINIA BANE, aged 23 months, daughter of Jessie S. ane.
 MARY CATHERINE SHIPLEY, aged 19 months, daughter of C. W. Shipley.
 EMORY RICE, B&O foreman.
 WILBUR BENNETT, died in the K of P Armory.
 MRS. CLAUDE MILLS, aged 23 years, nee Adams.
 MRS. CLAUD DUNLAP, nee Berry.
 HELEN LOUISE WRIGHTSMAN, aged 17 months, daughter of Don Wrightsman.
 MRS. TED C. THOMPSON, aged 35 years.
 MRS. J. C. GILPIN, Gilmore Street.
 MRS. JEROME RIGGLEMAN
 CARL R. RUEHLMIRE, husband of Bessie Kimmel.
 BERTIE MAY HARTMAN, aged 8 months, daughter of R.A. Hartman, 88 B St.
 MRS. BELLE BLAMER, wife of C. E. Blamer.
 MISS FLORENCE GITHEN, aged 27 years, daughter of Jake Gilthen.
 WADE HAMPTON JOHNSON, aged 2 years, son of Joseph Johnson.
 CHARLES BUTLER, Armstrong Street.
 JAMES RITCHIE, at Park's Orchard.
 BENNETT SPURLING, aged 6 years, son of Albert Spurling.
 RALPH FLEEK, aged 18 months, son of Albert Fleek.
 MRS. WILLIAM REEVES, daughter of Patrick Dorsey.
 HELEN HAMILTON, negro, aged 4 years, daughter of William S. and Emma Hamilton.
 MRS. FRANK STRICKLER, nee Groves, aged 25 years.
 MRS. BEULAH WOLFE, daughter of Pierce Bosley.
 MISS MARGARET CECILIA HOOVER, aged 32 years.
 MISS HANNAH ECK, aged 32 years, the priest's housekeeper.
 JOHN WASHINGTON, negro, aged 28 years, at Camp Grant.

MRS. SARAH HIGH
 MRS. WILLIAM MATHESON
 MISS VIVIAN WRIGHT, aged 26 years, school teacher, daughter of
 Harry C. Wright.
 RUBY BAKER, aged 9 years, daughter of J. R. Baker.
 MRS. CHARLES STAGGS, nee Borrer.
 MRS. NANNIE E. THRASHER
 MRS. ———— JOHNSON, aged 35 years.
 SAM CUNNINGHAM
 A DAVIS CHILD, on A Street.
 JOSEPH JOHNSON, aged 42 years.
 DR. ARZA FURBEE, druggist.
 JOHN H. STEPHENSON, aged 32 years, telegrapher.
 MRS. CLINTON DAWSON
 MRS. MABEL RITZEL CATHER
 JOSIE GRAPES, aged 21 years, daughter of James Grapes.
 A CHILD OF ROY SUTHERLAND, aged 13 days.
 The K of P Armory was used as an emergency hospital. World War
 I had not ended yet. It was a most depressing him.



Twin Mountain & Potomac Railroad from Keyser through
 Burlington & Rada to the Twin Mountain Orchards.



The McCarty Mansion built in 1815, used as a hospital
 and jail during the Civil War.

CHAPTER 15

The Indians Come Back to Keyser

In 1904 there were only two buildings on the north side of West Piedmont Street, between the K of P Building and the B&O Reservoir at Gilmore Street. All the land there was one large open field called the B&O "Commons," which were often used as circus grounds.

In 1904 a very famous in its day, circus show called "The 101 Wild West Show," came to Keyser with horses, cowboys and Indians. The show was in financial difficulty and moved out without taking its Indians. They were stranded here for at least a month, perhaps more, and camped on the "Commons" between Spring and James Streets. There were a lot of Indians, not just a few — adult men and women, many children, ponies, and dogs. They had tepees in which they lived and cooked over campfires on the "Commons." They were very quiet and peaceful and did not mingle with the towns' people.

A favorite place for the men to stand was on the banked up ground around the base of the B&O reservoir at Gilmore and West Piedmont Streets. At all hours of the day, but especially at sun set, their tall, blanket wrapped figures could be seen, eyes shaded by a hand, gazing endlessly at the mountains surrounding Keyser.

Mr. Max A. Brown, 193 S. Main Street, relates how some years ago he was in the west and got into a conversation with a Sioux chief. The chief asked Max where his home was. When Max replied he was from Keyser, W. Va., the chief said he knew the town and that he had lived there for some weeks in 1904.

The chief was a grandson of the warrior "Sitting Bull."



Keyser, West Virginia 1904

CHAPTER 16

The Hampshire County War Dead of the War of 1812, Some of Them from Keyser

The material here presented has never been made public before this. It is a list of fatalities taken from the Muster Rolls of the Hampshire County, Virginia "Company of Infantry in the service of the United States in the 7th Regiment under the command of Capt. Samuel Cockerell and commanded by Lieut. Col. David Saunders," from July 29, 1814, to February 22, 1815. This company was mustered out at Norfolk, Virginia.

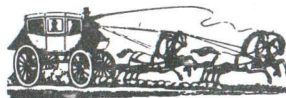
Of those who died, only one died in action — Corporal Charles Ford died in action October 26, 1814. All the rest of the fatalities died from measles. They were:

- Priv. John Dawson, died Dec. 6, 1814
- Priv. Joseph W. Davis, died Dec. 26, 1814
- Priv. James Hill, died Dec. 25, 1814
- Priv. Miller Junkins, died Dec. 1, 1814
- Priv. William Wilson, died Dec. 16, 1814
- Priv. James Fitzgerald, died Jan. 15, 1815
- Priv. William High, died Jan. 11, 1815
- Priv. Philip Sandy, died Jan. 2, 1815
- Priv. John Bowman, died Dec. 3, 1814
- Priv. Job Musgrove, died Dec. 24, 1814
- Priv. Peter Bever, died Nov. 28, 1814.

Many of these lived in what is now Mineral County. Some of them or their families traded here at Paddytown at the McCarty store, for example, the Junkins, Bevers, Wilsons, and Bowmans.

This fatal epidemic of measles occurred at Norfolk, Virginia. A private of one of the Virginia Militia Companies, Private Spencer Sharp, describes it thus:

"(I) was ordered with Capt. Steed's Company to Norfolk, Virginia. It was the coldest winter ever known. The river at Norfolk froze over and the snow fell to a depth of six inches. The company was engaged in putting up breastworks and they suffered intensely from cold. A worse foe than the English attacked them and great numbers died with the measles. As soon as a soldier was taken sick, he was marched through snow and sleet and mud to the hospital. Most of them took cold and died. I pulled through because the doctor took down just as I did, so I never peeped but just laid still in my hut and I got well. There wouldn't a been no John Sharp, if that doctor hadn't a took it."



CHAPTER 17

Biographies of Keyser's Leading Citizens of 1893

These biographies were published in 1893 and based on information furnished by the subjects of the same.

HON. THOMAS R. CARSKADON

Born in Hampshire County, May 17, 1837, (died 1905) son of Thomas Carskadon of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and Mary Johnson, daughter of Okey Johnson of Patterson Creek. Brothers and sisters: James Carskadon, W.Va. State Senator; Catherine S. Carskadon, wife of Robert K. Sheetz of Keyser; Elizabeth J. Carskadon, wife of Henry Head; William J. Carskadon, farmer, of Lewis County, Missouri; Isaac H. Carskadon, a Methodist minister; John Robert Carskadon of Keyser, father of Johnny Carskadon.

He was a member of the West Virginia Constitutional Convention United States Assessor of 2nd West. Va. District, Presidential Elector for both Presidents Grant and Hayes. Member of Republican State Committee.

Owned the 512 acre "Radical Hill Farm" at Keyser.

Vice-Presidential candidate in 1892, on Prohibition ticket. President of Keyser School Board, member of Mineral County Court.

Married Sarah A. Babb, daughter of Peter Babb.

Children — Newton B. Carskadon, lawyer of Kansas City, Mo.

Luther T. Carskadon, graduate of Law Department of University of Boston.

Henry D. Carskadon, manager of his father's farm.

Jane Catherine Carskadon, a graduate of Keyser High School. (later wife of G. Hal Reynolds)

JOHN HUGHES

Born in Grant County, W. Va., March 5, 1834, son of John Hughes and Debbie Hood. Came to Keyser in 1861. Had a general store here, Post Master at Keyser, 1862 to 1868, appointed by President Abe Lincoln.

Democrat in Politics, Town councilman 1880.

Began a Glove and Mitten Factory here in 1885.

Married March 22, 1864, Eliza Catherine Fry. Children: Cora Lee Hughes, born 1865.

Nettie Gaines Hughes, wife of John E. Carrier of Washington, D.C.

Chalmers Hughes of Internal Revenue Dept., Washington, D.C.

John was a staunch Presbyterian and brother of Elkanah Hughes, of Hughes St., Keyser, and Mrs. Levi Siever, of Willow Avenue.

JOHN W. KEYS

Born in Martinsburg, W. Va., February 20, 1829, son of John Keys and Anna M. Lashorn. Father died of cholera 1853. Came to Hampshire County and worked on a farm. Later returned to Martinsburg and learned the plasterer's trade. Came to Piedmont in 1852. Was plasterer there. Mineral County's delegate to state legislature in 1871. Erected the Keys House Hotel at Keyser, 1872.

Married Amanda M. Vickroy of Bedford County, Pa., on February 1, 1855.

Children:

Anna Mary Keys, wife of Allie P. Ritzell.

Lettie Lenora Keys, wife of William Spotts, of Hinton.

Philip H. Keys, Post Master at Keyser.

Charles Franklin Keys, M.D. at Keyser.

Thompson P. Keys, student at Morgantown, W.Va.

Richard H. Keys, assistant Post Master, Keyser.

Glendora Keys, "a young lady at home."

JAMES H. TROUT

Born near Keyser, July 3, 1838, son of Henry Trout, store keeper and Post Master at Ridgeville, and Susan A. Myers, daughter of Peter Myers. James Trout attended school in Front Royal, Va., Romney, W.Va., and Woodstock Academy. Spent two years as clerk on Chickasaw Nation Reservation, Oklahoma. Kept store at Ridgeville. Was delegate to Wheeling Convention which formed state of W.Va. Captured by Confederates; imprisoned for 6 months at "Castle Thunder," Richmond, Va. Sheriff of Hampshire Count 1865. First sheriff of Mineral County. Later was a farmer. Bought house at 152 S. Mineral Street in 1893. Owned all of western part of Fort Hill

Married August 2, 1865, to Miss Susan Jane Caldwell, daughter of Charles Caldwell. Children:

Mary M. Trout, wife of Rev. T. S. Long.

Lizzie Trout, school teacher.

Miss Willie Trout, student at Keyser High School.

Jennie C. Trout, died 1895, aged 25 years.

WILLIAM M. WELCH

Born at Frostburg, Md., January 11, 1841. Son of John Welch, farmer and Rebecca Greenwade, daughter of Moses Greenwade of Rawlings, Md.

Studied law with Judge George A. Pearre at Cumberland. Admitted to bar 1865. Came to Mineral County in June 1866. Prosecuting attorney of Mineral County in 1873. Delegate to State Legislature 1870, one time speaker of W.Va. House of Delegates. School Commissioner of Keyser for 9 years. Married at Clarksburg, W.Va., October 5, 1865, to Jennie Adams, daughter of William Adams, cousin of Judge Nathan Goff.

Children:

Carrie Welch, wife of T. P. Smith, Parkersburg, W.Va.

Lulu Welch, a student in Baltimore.

Ida Welch, at school in Parkersburg.

William Welch, attending Keyser Public School.

Richard A. Welch, attending Keyser Public School.

Ralph Welch, attending Keyser Public School.

REV. HENRY HOFFMAN

Born Luete Hachmann, in the village of Severin (pronounced Zay-fair-en) Holstein, Kingdon of Hannover, in the year 1814. Son of Heinrich Hachmann and his wife Gerthe Reichers. He lived in a nearby village named Molsomerwiede until 1831 when he came to Baltimore, Md., in the ship Draper, Captain Hillerd, arriving there

July 7, 1831. He had a Reichers uncle in Baltimore with whom he lived for a while.

He found his German name hard for Americans to pronounce and assumed the name Henry Hoffman. He was converted at a meeting in the Williams Street Methodist Church in 1833, became a "Southern" Methodist preacher of the Baltimore Conference in 1841, and became a pastor of a circuit at Woodstock and Newmarket, Va. He married a Miss Elizabeth Huntly of New London, Conn., and spent his entire ministry in the Shenandoah Valley, much of it in Bath County, Va.

He had three sons:

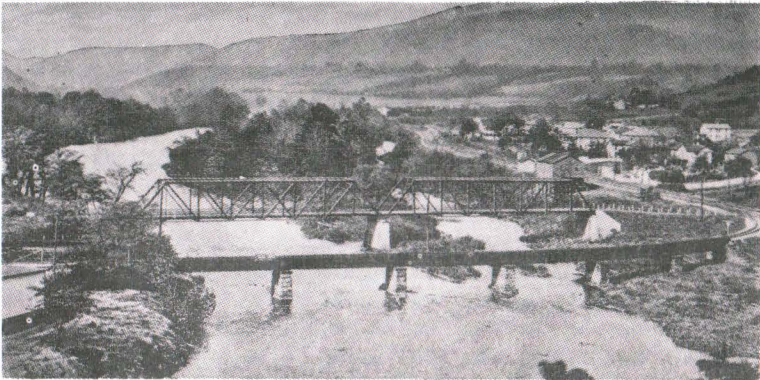
Olin Hoffman, M.D.

Charles S. Hoffman, M.D., founder of the Keyser Hospital.

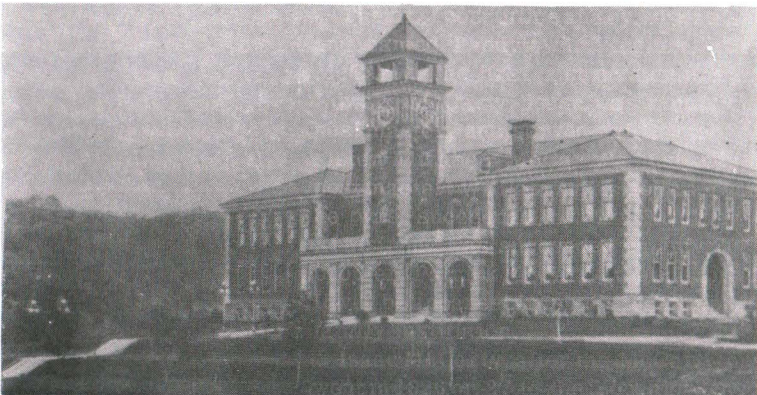
Richard Hoffman, drug store clerk at Keyser, who died in 1887.

Rev. Hoffman retired from the ministry and came to Keyser to live in 1869. He built the house on Armstrong Street, now Kemp's Beer Parlour, in that year. He died in 1893.

He was affectionately known as Father Hoffman and living so near the Court House, performed many marriages.



Potomac River and Bridges connecting Maryland and West Virginia



West Virginia Preparatory School, Keyser West Virginia.
The Clock Tower was donated by Col. Thomas B. Davis.
Fire destroyed this tower in 1919.

CHAPTER 18

Interesting Wills of Two Sisters

Mrs. Henry Hoffman and her sister Emeline Huntly who was unmarried, both lived after 1869 in Keyser until their deaths.

They were of Old New England "Yankee" stock, coming from New London, Conn.

Each of their wills is interesting and revealing. I herewith give them both. First the will of Emeline Huntly —

"In the name of God, Amen. I, Emeline D. Huntly, Keyser, Mineral County, being sound in mind and memory, do make, publish and declare this to be my last will and testament in manner and form as follows.

Item 1st. I will and direct that all my debts and funeral expenses be paid by my executor.

Item 2nd. I will and direct that the house and lot (now 153 Center Street) in Keyser, West Virginia, where I now reside, shall go and be the property of my nephew, Charles S. Hoffman.

Item 3rd. Four hundred dollars of the money I now have on deposit in the Savings Bank, the Bank of Commerce and the Union Bank all of New London, Connecticut, I will and direct shall be paid to my nephew, Mr. H. Blydenburgh of New York.

Item 4th. I will and direct that one hundred dollars be paid to my nephew, Richard Hoffman, to buy him a gold watch.

Item 5th. I will and devise to my two nieces, Ada McAllister and Nettie Huntly, daughters of my brother, Erastus Huntly, my watch, two silk dresses and my cloak.

Item 6th. I will and devise that Susan (Johnson (Col.) (Note, this Susan Johnson was the Aunt of Clarence Washington), my present servant, shall have the kitchen furniture and the carpet on the floor of the kitchen and on my sitting room and the use of the kitchen until all the victuals laid in for the use of the family are eaten up by her. Also Susan Johnson is to have fifty dollars in money to be paid by my my executor, and also is to have all my common clothes.

Item 7th. My black dresses and best underclothing I will and devise to my sister, E. P. Hoffman. All the rest of my clothes not before disposed of to go to Susan Johnson aforesaid.

Item 8th. I will and devise to my nephew, Charles S. Hoffman, all of my furniture and other movable property not before disposed of as well also as the rest and residue of the money in the banks before named, including bonds and all other personal estate.

Item 9th. I hereby constitute and appoint by friend, J. C. Learned, of New London, Connecticut, my executor of this my last will and testament.

Item 10th. I request my nephew, C. S. Hoffman, to pay my funeral expenses and also request Rev. J. M. Clymer (Presbyterian) to minister at my funeral, and I request he shall be presented with a five dollar gold piece.

Item 11th. I give my servant, Susan Johnson, my articles of jewelry.

Item 12th. I hereby revoke all former wills by me made. Given under the hand and seal this 5th day of January, A.D. 1877.

Emeline D. Huntly

Witnesses:

F.M. Reynolds

L.P. McNemar

Probated 16th day of January, 1877.

J.I. Barrick, Clerk."

This is where Dr. Hoffman got his start in Keyser.

Emeline Huntly's sister was Dr. C. S. Hoffman's mother. Her will is as follows:

"Feeling this is necessary, I make this request. For Charles S. to have pay for the cemetery lot he paid for and for all it has cost him for the burial of his brother, Richard, and for keeping up the lot since — then stone marked with C. S. Hoffman taken away and on each end of where it now stands, have a root of the boxwood here in yard be planted there, and Olin H. to have what he spent for his Father's burial and what he gave Mr. Smithson to come to the services. I wish for my funeral to be plain and simple and at home — now flowers. The remainder to be divided after giving Richard's two girls two hundred dollars each, between Charles S. and Olin H. in person. Charles S. has Clark's Commentary — The family Bible to Olin H. Clark's that I have here Olin bought and loaned to me, therefore, they are his. The tablespoons and forks are Olin's. The teaspoons marked Huntly P. give to Elizabeth Huntly Hoffman (Bessie). The teaspoons marked E. P. H., I give to Edith M. Hoffman. The knives go to Richard's girls. My watch I give to Elizabeth Huntly — His grandfather's chair I give to H. Huntly Hoffman. The teachers Bible is Charles W.'s. The table linen to each as is marked. The sheaf of wheat and flower pillows I wish to put on Pa's grave."

Elizabeth Perry Hoffman

You will recognize my writing.

Aug. 19, 1908."

"Probated Jan. 8, 1915.

Signature attested by oaths of F. M. Reynolds and Frank H. Babb.

J.V. Bell, Clerk"

Grandma Hoffman was quite a character, of very strong will and strong opinions. She wore a black satin "poke" bonnet which she herself had made, wore full skirts, had never worn a coat nor jacket in her life but was enfolded in a "great" shawl which came down to the hem of her dress in the back. She walked not with a cane, but a staff of polished wood, 5 feet high. She was "sharp-eyed" nothing escaped her. That woman had a strong will! While living in Bath County, Va., during the Civil War, some Union soldiers were stealing her cow. She took her staff and beat them off, saying, "You rascals, leave my cow alone."



CHAPTER 19

Some Keyser Anecdotes

Every community has some treasured and oft repeated local anecdotes, humorous occurrences and whimsical sayings, which are often both of questionable humor as well as questionable veracity. From the large number of Keyser anecdotes, some quite risqué in nature, I have selected the following — some I know are true, some partly true, and some may be fictitious.

1. "Dew Drop" Mosley, Aunt Susan and Robert.

George Washington Mosley, born 1810, died 1897, and his wife, Susan Myers Mosley, born 1828, died 1896, ran the New Creek Hotel, now 208 Mozelle Street, before the Civil War. The B&O passenger train stopped at the hotel to let the passengers get off and eat. One summer day, the dining room was full, many had ordered some of Aunt Susan's famous pie. Suddenly Aunt Susan stuck her head through the dining room door and yelled, "Wash, them hogs has et up all them pies, they ain't no more!"

Uncle Wash was known locally as "Dew Drop." He had a very large and prominent nose. There was always a drop or two of moisture on its end, hanging there, ready to drop. In the 1880s he kept a store at 102 N. Main Street. (Now Clement's Jewelry Store). It was said that every time Uncle Wash stopped over the flour barrel or sugar barrel, a drop or two would fall in. Mischievous boys (and girls, too) would open his store door, stick their head in and yell, "Dew Drop and Sonny and Papa's little honey," which would make Uncle Wash very angry indeed.

The Sonny referred to was their son, Robert (Bob) Mosley. Aunt Susan was very careful for Sonny's health. She would bundle him up even in warm weather, fearing he would catch cold. He was not allowed to go to the store until nearly noon, when the sun was well up. Mrs. "Rich" Athey used to say that Aunt Susan gave Bob his bath until he was 17 years old.

These Mosleys lived at 50 N. Davis Street, where Cutters now live.

When Robert was about 20 years old they decided to let him go on an excursion train to Washington, D.C., all by himself. The train left Keyser Saturday night and would return Monday morning. Uncle Wash and Aunt Susan went down to the station to see Bob off. She had fixed fried chicken and homemade bread and butter sandwiches in a shoe box for his lunch.

Just before train time Uncle Wash said, "Bob I guess you'll need a little spending money to take along with you. How much you want?" Bob said, "I don't know, Pa, how much you think I'll need?" Uncle Wash replied, "Well, Bob. here's a quarter. That ought to see you through."

On Monday morning, Bob, on his return home, gave his father back a dime, saying, "Here's what I had left over from that quarter you gave me. I didn't need it all."

2. Col. Thomas B. Davis.

Col. Davis died in November, 1911. I think he was 88 years old. He had been very ill for some time. A few days before his death he said to his attendant, Mr. Harry Gull, "Harry, are you going to the funeral?" Harry asked, "Whose funeral, colonel?"

"My funeral, Harry, my funeral, damn it."

"Colonel, let's not talk about that."

"Don't you go to it, Harry. You stay here and watch the house to see that no one steals anything."

3. Hunter, Zan and the Pig

Two brothers, Hunter and Zan Redman, had raised a pig. When butchering time came, they agreed that Zan was to go into the pigpen and drive the pig out through a hole in the side of the pen.

Hunter was to wait outside the hole with a hammer and hit the pig on the head to stun it as it came out the hole.

Zan went in, but the pig did not want to come out. In fact, the pig drove Zan out through the hole. As Zan's head emerged through the hole, Hunter hit him a right good blow right on the skull. If Zan had not been wearing a felt hat, he might have been killed. He did pass out for a while; when he came to he said, "Hunter, whoever saw a pig with a hat on?"

4. The Home Talent Show

One of the first "home talent" shows in Keyser was given in Johnson's Hall where the poolroom is now at the corner of Main and Center Streets, for the benefit of the Keyser Fire Company. In one of the acts, a villain was to be chased by four policemen with batons (police sticks) made out of stuffed black stockings. After catching him they were to take hold of him by each arm and leg, one police at each limb and swing him back and forth between them.

"One police was to shout 'I have him.' Another would shout, 'What'll we do with him?'" A third would answer, "Throw him out the window!" Then they were to heave him out the upstairs, back window into the alley, where some men were to be stationed under the window holding a blanket to catch him as he fell.

The night of the show all went well as scheduled until they shouted, "Throw him out the window." The villain, a young Keyser man, named Coffey Boucher, sailed through the air and out the window, but the men who were to hold the blanket were not there.

Coffey would have been killed, had not there been a huge pile of empty boxes used for packing, piled up to just below the second story window. As soon as Coffey went through the window, he hit the wooden boxes — there was a mighty sound of wood snapping and breaking mingled with Coffey's yells and groans. He bounced from box to box until he hit the ground. It is an understatement to say he was bruised and battered.

About ten minutes later Coffey came limping and groaning and holding his back, up the stairs from Center Street and into the hall.

A man, who had had a considerable lot to drink, was sitting near the entrance door. When he saw Coffey come in, he slapped his thigh and yelled, "That was the damndest, most realistic act, I ever seen!"

5. Col. Thomas Carskadon at Mr. Charles Rolls' Funeral where Kenny's Korner Store now is and who was the father of Sarah Rolls who married Clarence Washington; Henry Rolls who married Beatrice Washington and Lizzie Rolls who married Mack Hamilton, had been Col. Carskadon's "right hand man" on the farm.

Col. Carskadon's farm was called Radical Hill. He was a fluent, gifted orator and had one eye out, wearing in its place a glass eye. When the Colonel spoke the glass usually shifted to turn up toward the heaven. In his most impressive moments one eye was staring at the ceiling.

When Mr. Charlie Rolls died his funeral was held at Janes' Methodist Church. Of course Col. Carskadon attended. After the sermon, the minister invited the colonel to say a few words.

He arose impressively and said, one eye turned upward, —

"My friends, if I am ever so fortunate as to gain entrance into the heavenly City of the New Jerusalem and walk down those golden streets, and as I gaze about in rapture, if I do not see my good friend, Charlie Rolls, I shall wonder how Thomas Carskadon ever got there."



WILLIAM H. McILWEE
1879-1944

*Whose God-Given Talents Inspired
This Town
To Love and Play Music*

Chapter 20

Condensations of Excerpts from the Special Edition of the Keyser
Tribune of July 1898 (Vol. 29, No. 1)

Keyser is on the main lines of the Baltimore and Ohio and the West Virginia Central Railroads. The population is now 3,300, altitude 900 feet above sea level.

The water works — built at the expense of a \$45,000.00 bond issue. The source, a spring 290 feet higher than the town, with a resulting pressure of 126 pounds per square inch. Now (1898) the bond issue is reduced to \$37,000.00.

Municipal officers:

Mayor—Wm. M. Welch

Sergeant and Treasurer—Charles F. Vest

Councilmen—F.M. Reynolds

James T. Carskadon

James H. Rine

Harry G. Buxton

Recorder and Assessor—Silas N. Atkins

Total bonded indebtedness \$37,000.00. Assessed value of real estate \$465,000,000.00. Town taxes are 70 cents of \$100.00

Telephone System

Recently installed-operated under franchise by the Gordon Telephone Co.

The Burlington Telephone Co. is leased by the Gordon Telephone Co., as far as Burlington, where it connects with a complete system in operation to Romney, Moorefield, Petersburg, and Franklin.

The B&O Shops were moved here from Piedmont in the early 1870s and in 1896 were moved to Cumberland, Md., and then citizens here raised \$10,000, for the R.R. company to move them back.

Largest Carriage and Wagon Works in the State.

A. P. Ritzell began in 1879, moved to West Street in 1883. A. P. Ritzell was born in Cumberland, Md., in 1853; he married Annie M. Keys in 1880.

The Keyser Bank

Chartered July 15, 1886; capital stock \$50,000. President, F.M. Reynolds; vice-president, W.J. Babb; James Thornton Carskadon, cashier; Jesse A. Sharpless, assistant cashier.

Directors: John D. Gelwicks, George T. Carskadon, N.J. Crooks and J.H. Markwood.

J.B. Fitzer & Co.

Store established October, 1897. General store.

C.W. Siever & Co.

Hardware, stoves, and tinware, wholesale and retail business established June 1, 1895, at corner of Center and N. Water Streets. (Now Chevrolet Car Lot).

Nefflin's Store

Corner of Main and Armstrong Streets. Run by Paul H. Nefflin, son of Emil Nefflin, of Piedmont, who began business there in 1854, and who came from Wurtemberg, Germany, coming to America in 1848. Paul H.'s grandfather, John Hefflin, was a prominent German jurist and author of several valuable books.

Richardson Bros. & Co. Furniture Manufacturers.

Milton G. and Richard G. Richardson located in Keyser in 1875, and began their furniture business on Davis Street, 1880. Business expanded and they bought a building on Armstrong Street, later occupied by the "Mountain Echo" paper. After they started the factory, they sold the store and undertaking business to J.H. Markwood in 1891.

M.J. McNally, New Stock of Harness, Came from Elk Garden.

William Ellsworth Crooks

Born in Zanesville, Ohio, November 22, 1862. Raised in Hardy County. Had position in U.S. Census Office, Washington, and later was in real estate in Washington where he married a Mrs. Estes. Moved to Keyser in 1893. Had the cigar and stogie factory here at 107 South Main Street, named the Crooks Tobacco Co. He and his wife have built a "palatial" home at 76 S. Mineral St. known as "Buckeye Cottage."

Gem Pharmacy

J. R. Criser, Proprietor, Lawrence L. Kimes, Manager, North Main Street. (later Romig's Drug Store, old location). Was opened a year ago last May. Mr. Kimes is a registered pharmacist, who has been in the drug business for the past six years. The proprietor, Mr. Criser, is a conductor on the B&O RR and has worked for it for 36 years (since 1862).

Dan C. Quinn, Merchant

Main Street, where Rinard's Jewelry Store is now. Store was founded 1882 by L. M. Shepherd & Co., of Cumberland, Md. Mr. Quinn was its first manager. He purchased it in 1888. He was born in Hampshire County, and was at one time a town councilman.

The Keyser Public Schools

Conducted on a professional basis. High School affiliated with State University.

Present school board head — Jesse A. Sharpless; W. E. Fazenbaker, commissioner; George R. Davis, Piedmont, secretary. The school building on S. Mineral Street was built in 1882 for \$15,000.

Keyser's scholastic population is 752 whites, 55 colored. The amount of money spent for school salaries for term 1897-98 is \$4,986.00. The number of teachers employed is 12. School term — 9 months (teacher's pay about \$400.00 per year).

The High School has an alumni association. R. M. Collins has been principal since 1895.

The Electric Light Plant

Keyser Electric Light Co., North Mineral Street. Building erected in 1895. Capacity with motors now installed is 1000 - 16 candle-power incandescent lights and 40 - 2000 candle-power arc lights. The town streets are lighted with arc lights. Officers and directors: F.M. Reynolds, president; Arthur W. Coffroth, vice president; N.J. Crooks, manager and treasurer; Directors, W.E. Crooks, H.G. Buxton, J.H. Markwood, and J.T. Carskadon.

Authorized Stock \$50,000.00.

J.H. Markwood-Furniture & Undertaking — N. Main Street.

In 1878, Mr. Markwood purchased the stock of several small furniture stores here, consolidating them into one store at the corner of Water and Center Streets, (where Ludwick's Used Car Lot is now), where he conducted his business until 1890, at which time he built a brick store building on N. Main Street (now site of Farmers and Merchants Bank), carries a stock of \$5,000 to \$6,000.

He has studied embalming under Prof. Hohenschuh and Prof. Sullivan.

Keyser Woolen Mills

The town's most important industry. Corner of East and Mozelle Streets. The plant was founded by and is under the management of Arnold C. Scherr, in 1893. Weekly out-put \$750 to \$1,800.

Mrs. L.A. Criser, Fine Millinery and Notions, N. Main St.

Mrs. Criser is assisted by her two daughters, Clara and Nellie, and by Miss Etta Clary.

J.M. Fisher, Artistic Photography

From Hardy County, resident of Keyser since 1883.

Keyser Churches

The First Methodist, organized in 1850. Present building on Davis Street, built March, 1894. Cost about \$12,000. Pastor, Rev. J.O. rightson.

Grace M.E. South, organized 1875, in basement of Court House. Church erected 1876. Membership now 250. Sunday School 300. Pastor, Rev. J.H. Light.

Presbyterian Church

Church at corner of Main and E. Piedmont Streets, built in 1893; cost about \$10,000. Present pastor, Rev. J.H. Moore in 1890. Membership then 35, now 190. Until Rev. Moore's advent here, the Piedmont church was included in this pastorate.

Christian Church

Meets in Carskadon's Hall - Pastor, Rev. W.H. Patterson.

St. James Catholic Church — James Street.

Pastor, Father Drake.

Janes' M.E. Church, the negro church.

Wm. C. Clayton, Lawyer

Born in Hampshire, W.Va., Jan. 24, 1831; now 67 years old. Admitted to Bar 1859. His father was T. Clayton, M.D., of Romney. Attended Classical School at Romney and the University of Virginia in 1847-1848.

Jesse A. Sharpless

Born in Elk Garden in 1844. Attended Fairmont Normal School. Taught school in Piedmont for seven years. Was County Superintendent of schools for 3 terms. Moved to Keyser in 1881, where he was deputy sheriff for eight years. Became teller and acting assistant cashier at Keyser Bank in 1890. Married Carrie A. Nesbit in June 1881.

George T. Carskadon

Founded store in Keyser in 1874, corner of Main and Center Streets.

Daniel T. Greenwade - Storekeeper

Established Keyser store- 1884, and established a branch store in Cumberland later.

N.J. Crooks

Born in Zanesville, Ohio, January 16, 1861, son of Capt. W.B. Crooks (Civil War). His great uncle was General Crooks, the famous Indian fighter. Came to Keyser 1880; traveling salesman for Bear and Sons Wholesale Grocery, Wheeling, W.Va. Married Mrs. Emma Lee in September 1882.

Crooks Tobacco Company

Factory located 107 S. Main Street. Leading brands made - "Crooks Old Cuban" and "Congress Perfecto." Recent days shipment 32,000 c

gars. Made of Havana tobacco with Sumatra filler. President; N.J. Crooks, Vice-president; E.F. Nine, Secretary; W.E. Crooks, Manager; J.M. Trexler.

J.M. Bright's Livery Stable

Son of E.C. Bright. Father ran a stage between Morgantown and Fairmont for 31 years and came to Keyser in 1881. His father had mail contract between Keyser and Moorefield, Maysville and Petersburg. Father bought livery stable from Knight and Purgitt in 1889. Three years later, father gave one half of livery stable to son, Jesse. On April 15, 1895, Jesse bought out father's half in location near the Keys House Hotel. Was born in Morgantown in 1871. Married Nannie M. McIlwee of Romney, Oct. 20, 1894.

George W. Bane, Oldest Insurance Agency, Keyser.

City Market, Main Street

R.M. Workman, proprietor, employs James Roby as butcher. Father had general store at New Creek in 1870s.

Walter Lowry, grocer and market gardner. Came to Keyser after Civil War. Was in pottery business in Roseville, Ohio, where he married Aurilla Weaver in 1868.

Cyrus P. Grimes, Livery stable, Davis Street.

Secret Orders

Davis Lodge No. 5, A.F.&A.M., instituted Feb. 24, 1889.

I.O.O.F. Queen's Point Lodge No. 78, instituted Sept. 25, 1875.

Knights of Pythias, Olive Branch Lodge No. 25, instituted March 3, 1875.

Ancient Order United Workmen, Potomac Lodge No. 7, instituted Sept. 2, 1891.

Junior Order, United American Mechanics, Enterprised Council No. 20, instituted 1889.

Mineral County Officers (1898)

R.W. Dailey, Jr. — Judge of Circuit Court

J.V. Bell — Clerk, Circuit Court

Frank C. Reynolds — Prosecuting Attorney

W.E. Heskett — Sheriff

L.V. Davis — Deputy Sheriff

Floyd Knight — Deputy Sheriff

Thomas P. Adams — County Surveyor

C.F. Hahn — Supt. of Schools.
D.C. Arnold — Assessor, West District.
P.M. Dayton — Assessor, East District
County Commissioners —

P.S. Minshall

Michael Masteller

George Arnold

Clerk, County Court — J.V. Bell

Deputy to Circuit and County Courts — J.A. Fifer

Tax rate for county purposes — 35c per \$100.

Population in 1890 — 12,085 (County population)

Area of county — 300 sq. miles.

John D. Gelwicks, Shoe Merchant

Born in Boonsboro, Md. Nov. 1846. Hand made shoes a specialty.
He was not a shoe mender. He measured the foot and made the shoe.

City Hotel, corner Main and Armstrong Streets

Mrs. Julia Haughton, Prop. 8 rooms and bar. Established 1888.

Home cooking, "Old National Whiskey," rates per day \$1.00.

A Bonus Tip for the Reader

Here is a genuine recipe used in the Keyser saloons on how to make three barrels of whiskey out of one barrel.

Pour out $\frac{2}{3}$ of a barrel of whiskey into another container. Into the remaining third in the first barrel, put:

3 twists of Picknic Twist Chewing tobacco

1 small can of Cayenne Pepper

1 medium sized box of snuff

2 Tablespoons of Lye

Fill barrel with water. Let stand two weeks. Stir with a wooden paddle, twice daily.

Strain into bottles and serve over the bar.

This was actually used in Keyser.

This will make you so sick, you'll forget your troubles.

THE END

